

Monday

Senior... Michael Binyon, in Bonn, presents a portrait of Willy Brandt, West Germany's elder statesman, who is 70 today.

Citizens Russell Davies provides the lowdown on life in Cambridge.

Ghosts... Robert Frisk reports on the grim facts of life in Beirut, where death is a constant companion.

Of Christmas... The Monday Page comes face to face with the festive season.



Yet to come Macao: what does the future hold for the Portuguese colony as neighbouring Hongkong prepares for 1997?

Judge 'has sympathy' in sex case

Judge Brian Gibbons, QC, said at the Central Criminal Court that he had considerable sympathy for a man who had sexual intercourse with a girl aged seven. "It strikes me as being one of the kind of accidents that could almost happen to anyone," he said.

Korchnoi mugged

Viktor Korchnoi, he exiled Russian chess grandmaster, was mugged on Tower Bridge on Thursday night, it was revealed last night. Mr Korchnoi, aged 52, is in London for the world chess championship semi-final.

Rothschild deal

Rothschild Group, the holding company of NM Rothschild, the merchant bankers, has agreed to buy the maximum permitted stake in Smith Brothers, the London stockjobbers.

Peugeot crisis

The French Prime Minister is stepping in to defuse the crisis in the French car industry after the decision of the Peugeot factory to shut down its strike-hit Poissy plant.

Budget test

The Council of Ministers is to test the legality of the controversial EEC budget. The Council believes at least four points in it could be challenged before the European Court.

Drink warning

Magistrates in Essex have threatened to impose prison sentences on motorists convicted of drink-driving offences. Essex takes lead page 4.

Money savers

With only six shopping days left to Christmas, Family Money has been investigating ways of saving by shopping in France.

India revolution

India is planning to revolutionize the appearance of its locally built cars which at present look as though they belong to the 1950s.

Neill dismissed

Arsenal have dismissed Terry Neill, their manager for seven years, after a run of poor results, including a home defeat in the Milt Cup by Walsall.

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, and other categories with corresponding page numbers.

Two shot dead as store chief is rescued from IRA

From Richard Ford, Ballinamore, co Leitrim

A soldier and a policeman, members of the Irish Republic's security forces, were shot dead yesterday in fierce gun battles as Mr Don Tidy, the kidnapped chairman of Associated British Foods, was successfully freed.

The policeman was later named as Mr Peter Sheenan, aged 23, a recruit from the police training depot at Templemore, co Tipperary.

Mr Tidy, aged 49, was unharmed after his 22-day ordeal at the hands of the Provisional IRA who had demanded £5m from the Associated British Foods company for his safe release.

Last night, looking tired and with a grey beard, he made emotional telephone calls to his family at their home in Rathfriland, co Dublin, and to his business colleagues.

A detective, Mr Donal Kelleher, was shot in the leg when he threw himself in front of Mr Tidy as his captors turned their guns on him. A second soldier was injured, along with two members of the kidnap gang during three separate gun battles in isolated woodland near the village of Ballinamore, co Leitrim.

Four members of the gang escaped a dragnet of 1,000 police and army forces in the biggest security operation in the history of the Irish state. But detectives believe that they are still hiding in woods two miles north of the village near the road leading to the border with co Fermanagh.

A thousand extra troops, assisted by army helicopters, were drafted into the area and will begin a major search at daylight this morning.

Last night, a massive security operation was taking place on both sides of the border, with police and army checkpoints stopping all vehicles and searching them every few miles, as reports continued to come in that sporadic gunfire had been heard in the woods.

In Dublin, the Dail and the city's Roman Catholic and Protestant archbishops welcomed Mr Tidy's safe release, but expressed sympathy to the families of the two young men who died.

Inspector Patrick Malachy said: "Mr Tidy is in good health. He is jumping for joy at his release, he is very excited and overjoyed at being free again."

Mr Garry Weston, chairman of Associated British Foods, said: "We are supremely delighted on behalf of my family and all of his colleagues."

Chief Supt James McNally said: "It was an excellent day's work, saddened by the deaths of two very brave young men. Mr Tidy was unharmed and I have just been speaking to his daughter, who is delighted at her father's release."

Mr Tidy's release comes after one of the most intensive security operations ever mounted in the Republic, and occurred only 24 hours after it was revealed the kidnapers had renewed their ransom demand for £5m.

This had been rejected by Associated British Foods, who had taken into account the policy of the British and Irish governments that no cash be paid for kidnap victims.

Mr Tidy was abducted as he drove his daughter to school only a few months after the Provisional IRA had been foiled in an attempt to kidnap Mr Weston, from his home in co Wicklow.



Freedom day: Carol Compton being escorted from court while the judges deliberate.

Brittan hits out at closed shop

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, warned the unions last night that the closed shop could be in jeopardy if they failed to learn the important lessons of the National Graphical Association (NGA) dispute at Warrington.

In a speech on the subject of "Ending the Closed Shop", Mr Brittan told a meeting of businessmen in Northampton, North Yorkshire: "The closed shop is itself, however enforced, a flagrant and fundamental denial of individual liberties."

"Our employment legislation has rightly been aimed at curbing the worst abuses which the closed shop brings with it. But while trade unionists go on believing that it can be right for them to insist on their fellow workers joining a union whether they want to or not, this issue will continue to poison industrial relations."

"Moreover, no one should have any doubt that, however temporarily comfortable it may be, even for some employers, the suppression of individual workers' rights which closed shop agreements involve is not only morally wrong but deeply damaging to the economy and jobs."

He also said that the closed shop, as with every rigid monopoly attempting to secure immunity from market forces, contained the seeds of its own destruction; the respite was only temporary. Mr Brittan added: "Change there has to be, unless whole industries are to die."

The fact that the Home Secretary should speak in such tough and unrelenting language gives an indication of the Government's concern on an issue which did not feature in last June's manifesto.

But Whitehall sources did point out last night that Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Employment, had it in his power to bring forward the closed shop ballot deadline contained in the Employment Act, 1982.

Unions have until November next year to win 80 per cent support for closed shop agreements. If they fail employees have rights to non-membership. But Mr Norman Tebbit announced last year: "If there is evidence that the closed shop is still being operated intolerantly and inflexibly, I shall not hesitate to bring forward the date of implementation."

Ministers are thought to have reviewed that deadline in October, but there would be nothing to stop Mr King advancing the ballot date if the Prime Minister and the Cabinet felt that NGA intolerance and inflexibility demanded a stronger response than a threat from Mr Brittan.

Inflation at lowest for 14 years

By Peter Wilson-Smith

The yearly rate of inflation fell to 4.8 per cent last month and will end the year at the lowest level for 14 years, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, said yesterday.

"Today's fall in inflation to 4.8 per cent rounds off a year of good news on the economy which has seen us climb out of recession and achieve one of the fastest growth rates in Europe."

"It means that for 1983 prices will have risen more slowly than at any time since 1969," Mr King said.

The latest figures confirm inflationary pressures remain weak. Last month alone prices rose 0.4 per cent largely due to higher telephone charges and fresh-food prices although this was partly offset by price cuts for wine and second-hand cars.

However, the year-on-year inflation rate is still expected to edge up ahead because of the favourable trend in the same period last year.

Prices fell last December, helped by a 2 per cent cut in the mortgage rate, so even if prices showed no increase at all this month, the 12-month rate will still rise.

Officials expect inflation by the end of the year to be running a little above five per cent and comfortably in line with the Government's predictions.

However international comparisons show that Britain is roughly in line with the average in other industrialized countries of 5.2 per cent and some important competitors are doing much better. Inflation in the United States is 2.9 per cent and only 2.6 per cent in West Germany.

The importance of keeping inflation down if Britain is to compete in world markets was hammered home by both Mr King and by Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the Confederation of British Industry.

Sir Terence said: "This augurs well for attaining the Chancellor's forecast of 4.5 per cent by the end of next year. But we must not relax our efforts to keep pay settlements low as part of the effort to improve competitiveness."

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Guardian missile leak

By Richard Evans

A civil servant who leaked classified information to The Guardian should be identified and removed because he is a serious threat to national security, a court of appeal judge ruled yesterday in the case of the cruise missile document published by the newspaper.

Lord Justice Griffiths said: "I regard it as urgent that every possible step should be taken to identify this untrustworthy person and remove him from the position where he has access to classified material."

"Too much time has already passed. The trial will be going cold and the culprit will be taking steps to cover his tracks. There must be no more delays and the document must be handed over immediately."

The court ordered The Guardian to return the secret cruise missile document to the Ministry of Defence.

In a ruling which is likely to have far-reaching implications for journalists, three judges rejected the newspaper's plea that it was entitled to protect its anonymous source from being identified by markings on the document, and declared that national security required that the official be traced and removed.

Within one hour of the court order the photostat of the ministry memorandum received by The Guardian was handed over in a lawyer's office complete with identifying marks which could enable security officials to uncover the "mole".

The document, marked "secret", involved a memo from Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, to the Prime Minister, of which there were only seven copies, in which he dealt with publicity surrounding the arrival of cruise missiles at Greenham Common air base.

The newspaper published the text in full on October 31. When asked originally to return the document the newspaper said that it could only do so after removing any markings.

Mr Heseltine and the Attorney General successfully sued the newspaper in the High Court on Thursday to return the document intact, and the Court of Appeal upheld the ruling yesterday.

The newspaper had relied on an untested clause of the Contempt of Court Act, 1981, allowing newspapers to protect their sources of information.

Section 10 of the Act provides that no court can require disclosure of sources unless "it is established to the satisfaction of the court that disclosure is necessary in the interests of justice or national security, or for the prevention of disorder or crime."

Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, said that the case raised once again "the extent to which journalists are allowed to protect their sources of information."

But national security requirements are not to be overridden by the public interest in the disclosure of information.

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Judge orders 'mole' unmasked

By Richard Evans

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Continued on back page, col 3

Tories help house Bill on its way

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Cabinet's compromise proposals to loosen the solicitors' £1,000m monopoly on house conveyancing was rejected outright by the House of Commons yesterday.

Mr Austin Mitchell's Private Member's legislation, the House Buyers Bill, was given a second reading by 96 votes to 76, a majority of 20.

The Bill, which was backed by 25 Conservative MPs, now goes into committee for scrutiny and amendment. Mr Mitchell, Labour MP for Great

Yct when the closure was moved for a vote on the substantive question of second reading, Mr Mitchell scraped together the requisite 100 MPs in majority support - although some of them then voted against the Bill itself.

The result left the Law Society almost speechless (Our Property Correspondent writes). The society offered a terse "no comment" when asked for comments.

The Consumers' Association, which played a vital part in preparing Mr Mitchell's Bill, claimed the vote represented a victory for its campaign.

A spokesman said: "This is a good day for house buyers. Now MPs can get down to the fine tuning and ensure that the new arrangements for conveyancing provide the kind of protection for the consumer that we are confident can be achieved."

Mr Mark Belet, for the Buildings Societies' Association, welcomed the Government's intention to give building societies the power to undertake conveyancing. "It is something we have already requested," he said.

He added, however, that the association criticized the bill for failing to include adequate safeguards for the consumer.

Discussing the Bill earlier, Mr John Spalding, chief general manager of the Halifax Building Society, said conveyancing law and practice had not adapted to meet the needs of today's home-owning society. He said societies were prepared to take up conveyancing in competition with solicitors for their customers' benefit.

Mr David Ashford, chairman of the National Association of Conveyancers, representing non-solicitors who do conveyancing, said: "It is very exciting and we are cheered by its success."

Mr Ashford said the vote represented a "massive defeat for the pro-monopolists, the Law Society and their cohorts".

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Parliamentary report, page 4

Lebanon leader in surprise Libya visit

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

President Amin Gemayel arrived unexpectedly in the Libyan capital of Tripoli last night for talks with Colonel Muammar Ghaddafi, the Libyan leader, as another of Lebanon's allegedly unbreakable ceasefires permitted the authorities to reopen Beirut airport for the first time this month.

The truce had been agreed at a long meeting in Damascus between leaders of at least three of the militia groups which have been fighting around the airport and in the mountains east of Beirut.

The Syrian orientation of the ceasefire and the Lebanese leader's most unprecedented visit to Libya at Colonel Ghaddafi's own request suggests that the Lebanese Government is now anxious to see just how far Syria and its allies are prepared to go in supporting the Gemayel regime. They may well be doing so with the encouragement of the Americans, whose military confrontation with Syria has been in danger of getting out of control.

Colonel Simon Kassis, the head of Lebanese military intelligence, has been in Damascus for discussions with his Syrian opposite number and the highly charged rhetoric that used to be exchanged between Syria and Lebanon has now disappeared.

The Lebanese had "frozen" their relations with Libya on November 23 because they complained that Colonel Ghaddafi's radio and newspapers were making "verbal attacks" on Lebanon. Yesterday all this was forgotten. Indeed it was the Libyan news agency which first announced Mr Gemayel's arrival.

Libya maintains a token battalion of troops in the Syrian-occupied Beqaa valley and the Lebanese President will undoubtedly have asked the Libyan leader how long he intends to extend their uninvited visit. Several hundred Revolutionary Guards from Iran are also quartered around Baalbek - they were brought in by Syria more than a year and a half ago - and it will be interesting to see if the Lebanese authorities extend any courtesies to Tehran.

Art treasure talks collapse

By Geraldine Nurman, Sale Room Correspondent

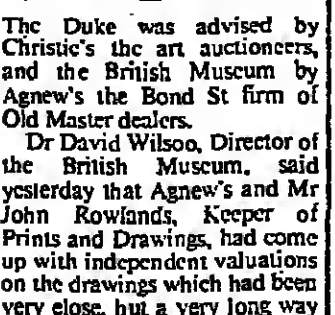
Negotiations between the Duke of Devonshire and the British Museum over the biggest art transfer to the nation of recent times have collapsed. Crisp statements from each side announced their failure to agree last night, after talks lasting more than a year.

The Duke had offered the museum a group of 74 Old Master drawings, including works by Rembrandt, Raphael, Rubens and Van Dyck. The bone of contention is their value which seems to have been set at various figures in the £3m to £6m range by different experts.

While the theoretical market value of the drawings is set at various figures in the £3m to £6m range by different experts, the Duke and the museum are concerned with the sum he would be left with after tax. Numerous different formulas for calculating this figure have apparently been explored without result.

The final move seems to have been the biggest tax-free offer the museum could stretch to after taking a very deep breath.

The difference over valuation is also due to a disagreement between top art market experts.



The Duke of Devonshire. Offered 74 drawings.

Advertisement for Arthur Bell & Sons plc featuring a bottle of Bell's Scotch Whisky and the text: "We take this opportunity to wish our many friends the compliments of the season and best wishes for 1984".

Sex with children could happen to anyone accidentally, judge says

There were gasps of astonishment from a public gallery in the Central Criminal Court yesterday as a senior judge defended a man who had had sexual intercourse with a friend's seven-year-old daughter.

"It strikes me as being one of the kind of accidents that could almost happen to anyone," Judge Gibbens said.

The judge, aged 71, who has two sons and a daughter, added: "This is, of course, a serious offence against a little child. I hope the public will not misunderstand me when I say what I do."

He said that he had considerable sympathy with William Watson-Sweeney, aged 35, a builder, said to have a serious drink problem.

"For some moments people like this lose their natural restraint," Judge Gibbens said.

Watson-Sweeney, of Vernon Road, Guildford, Surrey, admitted having unlawful sexual intercourse with the girl. He not guilty plea to raping her was accepted.

He was further remanded in custody until Monday. "I want to see if there is any other punishment available rather



Judge Gibbens: "Restraints can be lost."

than prison", Judge Gibbens said.

Mr Philip Singer, for the prosecution, said that Watson-Sweeney met the child and her mother while shopping.

He had been drinking heavily and asked the girl whether she would help him with some household chores. When he got her to his bedroom he removed her clothes and had intercourse.

He gave her some sherry and took her home. The distressed girl told her mother, who informed the police.

Watson-Sweeney at first told detectives: "You've got to be joking". But within minutes he broke down and confessed: "I must have been drinking too much."

"My God, I feel terrible about this. I wasn't legless, but I wasn't sober. She said she knew what mummies and daddies did to bedrooms."

Mr Jeremy Carter-Manning, for the defence, said that his client was "full of remorse and shame". The offence was an isolated one and the memory of it would remain with Watson-Sweeney and his family "for the rest of their lives". He realizes that he deserves everything he gets.

Mrs Brenda Bridge, the wife of the Dean of Guildford, the Very Rev Antony Bridge, was in court. She had been friendly with Watson-Sweeney and his wife, who have a younger son, and described them as a lovely family.

Judge Gibbens received considerable publicity two months ago after he criticized a jury for acquitting a young burglar.

Three years earlier he condemned workers at Heathrow for their dishonesty.



Plucking time for turkeys at Marlow, Buckinghamshire (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

Plea to free husband of dead solicitor

By A Staff Reporter

The husband of the murdered solicitor Mrs Janice Weston was still being questioned by the police last night after the failure of a High Court attempt to free him from custody.

The court was told that Mr Anthony Weston, a property developer, would either be charged with the murder of his wife, who was 37, or be freed by 2 pm today.

Lord Justice Watkins, sitting with Mr Justice Mann said that the application for a writ of habeas corpus had not been made out.

Mr Weston, aged 39, has been held at Huntingdon police station, Cambridgeshire, a few miles from the A1 lay-by where his wife's battered body was found in September, since shortly after noon on Thursday.

Mr Dermot Wright, counsel for Mr Weston, said that he should either be charged or released immediately. "He is now refusing to answer any more questions and will not say any more," he told the Queen's Bench Divisional Court.

"What we say is that the police are holding Mr Weston, knowing that he is at a low emotional ebb, since he has suffered for some months since the dramatic and brutal murder of his wife, holding him at a time when obviously he is very depressed and emotional so that they may, by holding him in the police station - for most of the time in a cell - gain some kind of confession or admission to the murder from him. We say that is wrong."

Mr Timothy Barnes, for the police, said he repudiated any suggestion that they were trying to force a confession out of him and rejected a suggestion that they were "scraping the barrel".

As a result of new information which had come into their possession, the police wanted to interview Mr Weston further before charging him, Mr Barnes said.

After a 30-minute hearing Det Chief Supt Len Bradley, who is leading the murder inquiry, said that he would abide by his undertaking to charge or release Mr Weston by 2 pm today.

Mr Weston has told the police that he last saw his wife the day before she died and that she spent the weekend of her death on business in France.

Mrs Weston, who lives at Addison Avenue, Holland Park, west London, was a partner in the legal firm of Charles Russell, of Lincoln's Inn.

Cot death clue discovered

By Clive Cookson

Researchers at Birmingham University may have discovered a cause for unexplained "cot deaths".

Preliminary evidence from Dr Stanley Salmons and Mr Dennis Gale of the university's department of anatomy indicate that the main muscle protein, myosin, has not matured properly in the diaphragms of babies that mysteriously stop breathing in their cots.

The researchers are using antibodies, supplied by the Institut Pasteur in Paris, to analyse the protein in post mortem samples. The antibodies distinguish the immature form of myosin, with which the baby is born, from the adult form that should develop during the first months of life.

According to the Birmingham hypothesis, the diaphragm, whose muscles control breathing, becomes susceptible to fatigue if the myosin does not mature fast enough. Theo any additional stress, such as a cold, could make the diaphragm fail suddenly.

The Foundation for the Study of Infant Death, based in London, has given Dr Salmons and Mr Gale a £21,500 grant to carry their research further over the next two years. Mr Gale emphasized that the project was intended only to identify an important molecular cause of cot deaths.

If myosin immaturity is indeed implicated, then more clinical work would be required to develop the discovery into a practical means of identifying babies at risk, who could be monitored closely.

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Loop-hole in prison repatriation Bill

By Stewart Tessler, Crime Reporter

Planned government legislation for the repatriation of Britons imprisoned abroad could result in some prisoners serving sentences in British jails for offences not recognized here.

The Repatriation of Prisoners Bill which has its second reading in the Lords next Wednesday follows the Government's announcement in August that Britain would ratify the Council of Europe Convention for sentenced persons.

The convention, due to be ratified by 14 countries, including Canada and the United States, says that prisoners can be sent home to serve their punishment only where their offence is recognized in both countries.

The Bill does not lay down that the offence must be mutual, going wider by not being specific. So, a prisoner could be returned from the Middle East to serve a sentence for possessing alcohol.

The National Council for the Welfare of Prisoners Abroad said that it was worried about the gap in the bill which needed clarification.

In general it supported legislation, but would brief members of the Lords. The Home Office said that it was preferable to be imprisoned in Britain rather than in worse conditions abroad.

The spokesman said that a transfer could only be made where both countries and the prisoner all agreed. The problems of someone being brought home for an unknown offence would not arise with the current signatories of the convention.

The bill also allows for arrangements to be drawn up with countries outside the convention - negotiations with Thailand are in progress. But not those in the Middle East. The Bill's powers are wide enough for the Home Secretary to lay down what the prisoner might serve, and which a prisoner would know in advance.

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Prices held by fresh turkeys

By Stewart Tessler, Crime Reporter

About nine thousand turkeys will have been killed and sent to butchers' shops this week from the farm of Mr Tom Copas, near Marlow, Buckinghamshire (our Agriculture Correspondent writes).

Altogether about 10 million birds will be consumed this Christmas, but four fifths of those will be frozen, 750,000 of them unsold from last year.

Although supermarkets are selling frozen turkeys at less than 50p a pound, the market for fresh birds at between £1 and £1.05 a pound is holding up well, according to Mr Copas.

Unlike Welsh farmers, who expressed fears recently that the glut of frozen birds would undermine their businesses, he is confident that there are still two million families prepared to pay twice the price for better flavour and texture.

"If anything, the trade is coming our way," he says.

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Unlike Welsh farmers, who expressed fears recently that the glut of frozen birds would undermine their businesses, he is confident that there are still two million families prepared to pay twice the price for better flavour and texture.

"If anything, the trade is coming our way," he says.

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Kidnap gang leader jailed for 18 years

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Thatcher bomb 'cry for help'

A north London schoolboy aged 14 was "making a cry for help" when he posted a bomb to Mrs Margaret Thatcher on St Patrick's day, a detective said yesterday.

Det Insp Brendan Gibb, of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch told the Central Criminal Court that he had made extensive investigations into the case but could find "absolutely no evidence whatsoever" that the boy had any political motive.

On the second day of his trial the boy changed his plea to guilty to sending an explosive device through the post. The charges alleging that he intended to injure the Prime Minister or any other person were left on the court file. Sentence was adjourned for a month for reports and the boy was granted bail.

Stephen Elliott, aged 16, was awarded £80,000 agreed damages in the High Court in London yesterday after being injured in an accident involving his father's lorry, in which he was a passenger.

He had a leg amputated after the accident, at East Bergholt, Essex, in December 1979, and suffered multiple fractures and lacerations which left him scarred for life.

Nigel Edwards, aged 26, of Llys-y-wern, Sydhym, near Mold a police constable, was sentenced to three months' jail when he appeared before Chester Crown Court yesterday charged with causing the death of a colleague, PC Ian Groat, by reckless driving in June. Edwards has since left police service.

Shells and seaweed gathered by children of St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic School, Swinton, on an outing to the beach near the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant in Cumbria were checked yesterday for traces of radioactivity by scientists from British Nuclear Fuels Limited. All showed normal background radiation.

The Burnley Evening Star, which started in 1965, will cease publication today with the loss of 68 jobs. Circulation has fallen from more than 30,000 to 16,000.

When a suitable patient was found at Harefield Hospital in Uxbridge, west London, preparations were made for a helicopter to go to Staffordshire to pick up the heart. But the unit from Harefield was called back when Mr Jobo Wain, the deputy coroner of Stoke-on-Trent, unexpectedly called a halt to the removal of Mr Alcock's heart.

In the only statement which he has issued since taking his decision Mr Wain said that he had stopped the operation because he considered that "the pre-existing condition of the deceased's heart might be relevant to the jury inquest in due course". Yesterday Mr Wain was not available for further clarification of his decision.

But Mrs Jean Alcock, the fitter's widow, of Goldhurst Drive, Tean, has said that she was upset that the dying wish of her husband had not been honoured. "It seems he died in vain," she added. Her mother-in-law, Mrs Dorothy Alcock, also criticized the coroner's decision. Many people with

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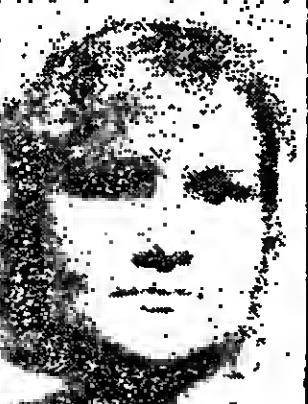
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Eila Karjalainen: a Finnish student.

The girl found strangled in a wood on the Duke of Marlborough's Blenheim estate in Oxfordshire three weeks ago has been named as a Finnish student, Eila Karjalainen, who was 23.

The breakthrough in identifying her body came this week when a walker found her passport, rucksack and diary in a lay-by near Witney.

Det Supt Roger Nicklin said that Miss Karjalainen arrived at Harwich on August 2. She stayed at a hotel in central London until the following Sunday, apparently intending to visit Wales the next week.

A spokesman for the Department of Health and Social Security in London said yesterday that she hoped that Mr Alcock's case would in no way deter people from offering their organs for transplants. The department was launching a poster, leaflet and television commercial campaign at the end of next month to relaunch the donor card system, she said.

A spokesman for Harefield Hospital said that he was disappointed that the transplant had not gone ahead as planned. But hospitals had to pay attention to what a coroner decided. "We cannot argue about it," he said.

I befell on a certain day that a fair damsel came into the court of King Arthur, mounted on a white palfrey. And she spoke to the knights assembled there, saying, "Who among you will take up arms, and set forth on the Quest for the Holy Grail?"

At once, the knights rose up, and summoned their squires and horses. All save one Sir Periwale.

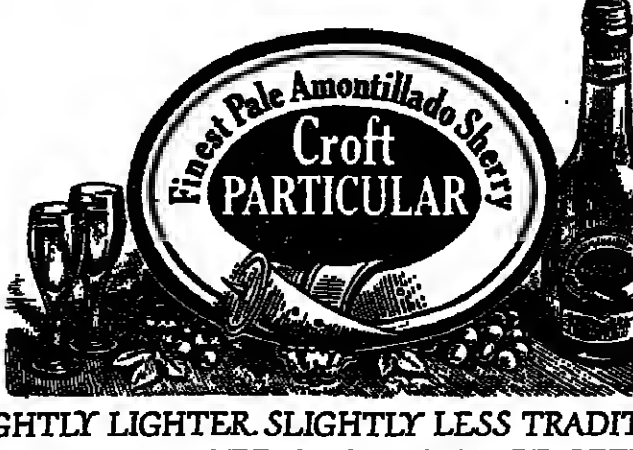
"Comest thou not with us?" enquired his fellows.

"Not I," said Sir Periwale. "My quest is at an end, for I have found this Croft Particular. A light, crisp and exceeding drinkable sherry...for all your hazardous adventures and arduous journeyings, you'll not find its equal."

At this, the knights returned to the Round Table. And, on trying this marvellous potion, agreed forthwith to forget the Holy Grail.

And they bade the fair damsel to do likewise and join them in a glass of Croft Particular.

"Yeah," said Sir Galahad, doing his Sir John of the Wain impression that always got a big laugh at Camelot parties. "Get off yer horse and drink yer sherry."



Finest Pale Amontillado Sherry
Croft PARTICULAR

SLIGHTLY LIGHTER. SLIGHTLY LESS TRADITIONAL.
TO BE ENJOYED SLIGHTLY MORE OFTEN.

Predator beetles imported to protect trees

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Three hundred Belgian beetles of the species *Rhizophagus grandis* have been imported by the Forestry Commission and established in a special breeding unit in Mortimer Forest, near Ludlow, Shropshire, eventually to attack the Great Spruce Bark Beetle (*Dendroctonus Micans*).

Unlike *R. grandis*, *D. Micans* prefers the bark of conifer trees, especially Sitka spruce, ultimately killing them. Since an infestation was discovered by the commission in August last year, numbers have spread.

There are now restrictions on the movement of timber in the Welsh border counties and in Gloucestershire, Hereford and Worcester, Shropshire and a part of Staffordshire.

Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, told the Commons on Wednesday that 677 infestations had so far been discovered. A commission official said yesterday it was hoped to release about six thousand predators

Coroner halts heart transplant

By David Cross

A dispute over a Staffordshire coroner's decision to stop the heart of a maintenance fitter being used in a heart transplant operation could not have come at a worse time. The Department of Health and Social Security is preparing to launch a publicity campaign next month to encourage more people to make arrangements for their organs to be used when they die.

Although surveys show that many people were in favour of bequeathing organs, only about 15 per cent carried donor cards.

Mr Graham Alcock, aged 28, a fitter at an excavator factory in Rochester, had carried a donor card with him. Before he died last Tuesday, he told relatives that he wanted his heart and kidneys to be used for transplants.

As a result of that request doctors at the Royal Infirmary in North Staffordshire kept him alive until suitable recipients could be found for his heart and kidneys. Tests were carried out on his organs to match those of patients waiting for a transplant.

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Magistrates studying jail sentences for drink drivers after Essex lead

By Kenneth Gosling

Magistrates throughout the country will have in mind the possibility of imposing deterrent sentences when dealing with drink-driving cases after Essex magistrates handed sentences on nine drivers in Great Essex.

The Bench at Grays sent one man, who had a drink-driving conviction, to prison for six months during hearings on Thursday. Of the others, all first offenders, four were ordered to be detained in police cells for four days, the rest for two days each.

Mr Geoffrey Norman, secretary of the Magistrates' Association, said: "I am sure it will have the effect intended. The prospect of loss of liberty will operate on people's minds, particularly in the Grays area." Mr Norman said there were no examples of other courts taking similar action; but the principle of imposing deterrent sentences for drink-driving in cases of telephone box vandalism by young offenders, in incidents of violence and in cases of shoplifting, was a well established one.

"I would have thought generally that this was publicly acceptable," he said. Mr Norman said since the policy concerning drunk driving was announced after the Brewster Sessions in February, only one driver had appealed against a custodial sentence. His six months' imprisonment was reduced to three.

"If anyone should think the deterrent sentence is not a sound principle, their remedy is to appeal," he said. The Department of Transport, which has launched its pre-Christmas campaign against drinking and driving said: "Our view is that we would rather people did not get into that position; it is only to be welcomed insofar as it might act as a further deterrent.

The area has seen a 67 per cent rise over a year in drink-driving cases, the national figure for convictions last year was 75,000, up 4,000 in 1981.

Mr Noad referred to a number of horrific accidents which appeared to have involved drunk drivers. Heavy traffic passes through the area, especially on the A13.

Mailcoach of the twentieth century

By Michael Horsnell

Like fresh-faced ghosts, three passengers brave the winter chill outside the Pack Horse Hotel in Louth, on the edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds, awaiting the postbus, just as their ancestors did two centuries before them.

The distinctive red and yellow 11-seater Dodge is a world away from the Royal Mail steam-coach which set off from the old coaching inn on the muddy road to London.

But the concept of carrying mail and passengers by road is the same, even though the route followed by Mr John Killick, the postman, is less exciting than that of his predecessors, a 25-mile circular loop round the countryside via Mackton Bottom.

On the way, Mr Killick, aged 49, who collects the fares, stops to empty 13 post boxes.

It is one of three daily services run by the Post Office at Louth, the longest being the 55-mile morning run through Gosby, which takes five hours and 35 minutes because the postman has to deliver the mail on the way.

But the passengers, only the oldest of whom distantly remembers more conventional bus services through the wolds, are patient for it is better to take a time than to walk and better to keep rural communities in touch with each other than isolated.

The Louth postbus service was launched 10 years ago at a time when rural county councils were desperately seeking ways of divesting themselves of the financial pressures imposed by normal, user-based bus services.

The Post Office runs 176 postbus services, predominantly in Scotland, where more experienced postmen have been known to carry the occasional sheep and pick up prescriptions for the doctor for some of their passengers, and the service is expanding south of the border.



All aboard: Passengers of the Louth postbus (Photograph: John Manning).

complicated equation involving fares and the difference in cost between a normal post van and the postbus has been calculated.

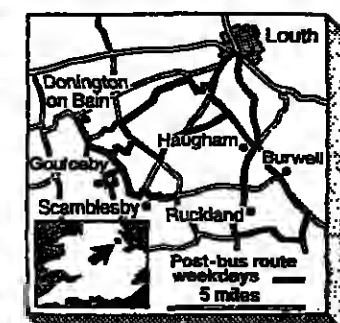
Mr Don Nutt, the council's passenger transport manager, said: "We had to take initiatives like this in the early seventies for financial reasons and the postbus has provided a safety net for isolated villages. It is helping communities survive with all that that means for rural life."

Last year, the Louth postbus carries about 1,500 passengers and raised nearly £500 in fares. The passengers, some of whom live in hamlets with as few as seven houses, are in transports of delight over the bus.

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Mrs Pat Henshaw, a pensioner from Bargate Tadwell, a hamlet with 35 houses, asked: "Where else would you get a postman prepared in all weathers to drop you at your door with a pile of shopping?"

Abandoned cars 'time bombs'

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

The growing number of cars abandoned on Britain's streets because of stricter MOT enforcement are a potential "time bomb" which sooner or later will kill children using them as playthings, the Automobile Association said yesterday.

To spotlight the danger, the association's Drive magazine carried out an experiment with a Toyota which had been left for months in a car park near Crawley, Sussex. With the fire brigade in attendance a match was applied to the interior upholstery.

This is the timetable of events which followed: 30 secs: heavy black smoke and flames. 2 mins: rubber pipe to petrol tank burns through and the escaping petrol/air mixture ignites in a plume of flame. 6 mins: windows and wind screen shatter. Flames increase dramatically as air rushes in. 7.5 mins: aerosol cans in the boot explode.

8.5 mins: 5 gallon can containing half a gallon of petrol explodes, shooting the can lid 40 yds and setting fire to grass and anything combustible in the vicinity.

16 mins: firemen move in with high pressure water hoses. Drive comments: "In an average suburban street, the fire brigade would reckon to reach the scene before 16 minutes provided they were informed the moment the car caught fire. But, as our demonstration shows 15 minutes is a long time in a blaze of this type. Imagine our Toyota in a crowded housing estate."

Mr Bob Deuman, director of cleaning for the London Borough of Haringey, said: "We have had injuries to kids playing with wrecked cars but so far nothing serious. Mr constant fear is that something really bad will happen. And I am talking about a death."

Haringey towed away 968 abandoned vehicles last year, an increase of 100 per cent in five years. That compares with 439 in Birmingham and 350 in Glasgow. Drive reports that the best councils take only two weeks but others take months

Horsewoman fined for smuggling dog

Miss Sheila Wilcox, the leading horsewoman, was fined for smuggling her pet dog Gip for company after a riding accident in Germany.

She was so desperate to have the black, cross-bred Lurcher dog by her side that she persuaded friends to smuggle him back into Britain, bypassing quarantine rules and breaking the anti-rabies laws.

Miss Wilcox, aged 51, four times Badminton winner, and the only woman ever to win in three consecutive years, yesterday admitted permitting the dog to be landed at Dover in contravention of the rabies laws, and was fined £500 and ordered to pay Gloucestershire county council's £40 prosecution costs.

Magistrates at Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, were told Miss Wilcox, of Shenberr Hill, Stanton, Gloucestershire, was rebuilding her career after a fall in 1971 which left her partially paralysed, when a second accident happened last May.

She had gone to Germany for a dressage competition but fell again only days before competing seriously injuring her neck, ribs, pelvis, thigh and knee.

"I was told I would not ride again," she said in a statement to police "I could not bear to think of the future. I was extremely depressed and in a state of total despair. I decided to go home."

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Job fight by social worker

A social worker was dismissed after he allowed one of his staff to have a love affair with a disabled woman, an industrial tribunal in London heard yesterday.

The hearing, which lasted three days, was held at the Social Workers' Tribunal, London. Mr Tom Hulley, aged 36, had earlier stopped two relationships between staff and residents at St Michael's House, Welwyn Garden City, where he was manager, because he felt they were harmful.

But he decided that the affair between Miss Patricia Gaye, aged 23, who is confined to a wheelchair, and an assistant, Mr Philip Lucy, aged 23, was not dangerous, Mr Herbert Laming, director of social services for Hertfordshire County Council, said.

Mr Laming said that Mr Hulley, from Stevenage, should have sought advice and approval from his superiors. He said that Mr Lucy was given a written warning. "He had acted properly and reasonably in taking guidance from Mr Hulley," he said. Mr Hulley had reassured that the relationship could go ahead.

Whitehall-police clash on drugs

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers may be heading for a collision over Whitehall criticism that chief constables are not responding strongly enough to Britain's increasing drug abuse problem.

Senior officials are understood to be extremely unhappy at the association's "lack lustre" reaction to a government policy statement this week by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, on curbing drug abuse.

Mr Brittan put forward the Government's plans in a speech on Wednesday. At the same time, the association issued a statement to coincide with his announcement.

The four-sentence statement, which went largely unreported, said that police shared the concern about drug abuse. While the police were working with customs officers on various initiatives, the problem, none the less, was one for society as a whole.

There was a need for an "inter-agency approach" involving the courts, doctors, teachers, social workers, and parents.

The statement was greeted in Whitehall with the feeling that the police were little short of abdicating their own responsibility in fighting drug abuse. It was seen as another illustration of the difficulties the Home Office believes it is encountering.

For some years there has been growing frustration that the association, which represents senior officers in forces across England and Wales, has not taken the increase drug abuse sufficiently seriously. Civil servants believe that the police have been partly influenced by the series of corruption incidents found within Scotland Yard's drugs squad during the 1970s.

Whitehall would like to see greater emphasis on dealers rather than the small-time street operators, and indications of more energy and commitment from chief constables.

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MPs support Bill designed to break conveyancing monopoly

Commons

The House of Commons today passed a Bill designed to break the conveyancing monopoly of solicitors. The Bill received its second reading in the Commons by 96 votes to 76 - majority 20, after a closure motion had been carried by 100 votes to 14, a majority of 86.

This occurred after Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General, had announced that the Government intended to introduce its own legislation to extend the right of conveyancing not just to registered land, with which the Bill dealt, but to all land, to solicitors employed by building societies and banks, subject to safeguards.

He indicated that the Government intended to proceed promptly so as not to delay the introduction of additional competition. The Government's mind was not closed to the possibility of solicitors employed by other than building societies and banks being included, but in some cases there might be conflict of interest.

The Director General of Fair Trading would ensure that competition was fair. The Government wanted to see house buying made simpler and cheaper. We have decided (he said) that more can be done to consider the process of conveyancing as a whole with a view to simplifying the practice and making it as efficient as possible and will set up a special committee under the Law Commission to examine various proposals and to ensure that the work going on in many areas is coordinated and the work kept under review.

ancing and house purchasing which would be open to all. The Law Society supported this. The sponsor of the Bill, Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby, Lab), in moving the second reading, said that he did not expect the Bill to be passed. He said that the process of house buying in the age of the quill pen. The Bill made provision for the licensing of conveyancers.

The process of house buying could be greatly simplified by grouping all the various agencies, legal estate agents, banks, and building societies in one group rather than leaving it to the house buyer to coordinate all their activities.

All that was preventing such a move was the monopoly on conveyancing held by solicitors; it stopped the process dead. The Bill would clear away some of the obstacles which prevented at least a move towards a comprehensive system.

It was not as if drawing up conveyances was a particularly skilled task in most cases. All it required was an ability to read and put names on a form, and that was scandalous. The monopoly not only stopped other people doing the work; it even stopped solicitors competing with estate agents as was allowed in Scotland. The introduction of competition would make conveyancing easier, cheaper and more efficient.

The Bill was only a partial measure to allow solicitors to adjust to competition which was undoubtedly going to come, rather than trying to sweep away the monopoly in one fell swoop. Every national newspaper editorial had supported him with a whole chorus of support. The

Times had said the Government would do well to enact the Bill and "take the necessities of the solicitors with a pinch of salt". This monopoly, he said, is odious, it is unpopular, it is contrary to the spirit of the age and it must go.

Sir Walter Clegg (Wye, C), chairman of the all-party solicitors' group said it used to be the case that there was no competition within the profession but now that there was

personal transaction anyone undertaken and if it went wrong, it could cause disaster and misery. The issue seemed to be how best to achieve competition with adequate safeguards for house buyers, not sufficiently expert to be able to safeguard themselves. But the protection in the Bill was inferior to that given by present arrangements. Equally, the Government felt the existing degree of competition was unduly restrictive.

Mailcoach of the twentieth century

Like fresh-faced ghosts, three passengers brave the winter chill outside the Pack Horse Hotel in Louth, on the edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds, awaiting the postbus, just as their ancestors did two centuries before them.

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Sailing ships rot in Falklands grave

By Tony Samstag

At least 500 wrecked British and American 19th century ocean-going sailing ships are rotting off the Falkland Islands because there is no preservation programme, the Falkland Islands Foundation says.

Its newsletter published this week described the ships as "the finest natural museum of nautical antiquity in the world" which "to the lurch of post-war Falklands are every bit as threatened as the wildlife".

Sir Peter Scott, who established the foundation in 1979, praised military efforts to minimise disturbance of the square riggers. Mr Michael Mensun Bound, a maritime archaeologist and an islander, says that the ships "are mostly survivors of the great trades which flourished during the last century with the west coast of South America and required the best ships in order to survive the heavy loads and the constant slamming west-erlies around Cape Horn".

But many could not take such punishment and limped into the Falklands harbours, turning them into the world's largest nautical graveyard. The wrecks have survived because of the islands' isolation and climate. Mr Bound says that the American vessels Charles Cooper and Snow Squall the most important. The Cooper, a packet ship built in 1856, "dominates Stanley's waterfront" but is in a critical condition.

The Snow Squall is "the only true survivor of a clipper ship" of which only about 40 foot is above water. Some ships have been bought by American museums

New bureaucracy feared

House of Lords

Two Bills designed to combat discrimination against the disabled received unopposed second readings in the House of Lords.

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3 years for man who 'reenacted film chase'

Melvin Cross, aged 29, who crashed through a police roadblock and into a car with a family of four still inside, was re-enacting the scene from the film Vanishing Point Norwich Crown Court was told yesterday.

In the film the driver of the car is chased across the United States and dies in a fire after crashing the car into a police roadblock. After watching the film Cross stole a car from Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, drank a bottle of vodka and smoked cannabis and was then chased by police up to speeds of 90mph before crashing into a hastily set up roadblock at Woremyay, Norfolk.

Mr John Farmer, for the prosecution said Police Constable Malcolm Reeves leapt for his life seconds before the car driven by Cross hit an almost new Mini Metro, which had been stopped by the police at the roadblock and the police car. Still inside the Metro was Mr Gordon Phillips a teacher, of Holly House, Fincham, Norfolk, his wife Josephine, his son Joshua, aged 10 and daughter, Holly, aged seven.

They suffered minor injuries but their car was written off and was replaced at a cost of £3,200 with the police paying the bill. Cross, unemployed, of Kersey Avenue, Great Cornard, Sudbury, Suffolk, was jailed for three years and banned from driving for five years after pleading guilty to motoring offences.

Cross, who had numerous motoring convictions, was told by the Recorder Mr Gerald Drysdale: "You are highly dangerous. Someone who takes a car then drinks and takes drugs is like a wild beast and as dangerous as a lion which he escaped from its cage."

Within five weeks of being released from jail for a previous conviction of reckless driving you committed an even worse offence. I have never listened to a more horrifying case of driving than yours and you are extremely lucky you are not facing life imprisonment for manslaughter.

Restoration to start on Whitehall site

By John Young

The restoration of Richmond Terrace, in Whitehall, which for the past three and a half years has been cocooned in a giant polythene envelope, is to go ahead. A contract has been awarded to Taylor Woodrow Construction, and work will start next month.

The once handsome Georgian terrace stands opposite Downing Street, on a route used by millions of tourists every year. In 1969, it was scheduled for demolition to make way for a new Home Office building, but there were angry protests, and after a public inquiry, the Government agreed that the façades at least should be retained, along with Norman Shaw's New Scotland Yard.

In 1973, it was vacated by the Foreign Office as unsafe. Two years later the Government commissioned a study into its possible use as offices for MPs and in 1978, Mr Peter Shore, then Secretary of State for the Environment, announced that restoration was to go ahead at a cost of £8.5m. It is now estimated that the complete restoration project will cost £28m.

PARLIAMENT December 16 1983

MPs support Bill designed to break conveyancing monopoly

Commons

The House of Commons today passed a Bill designed to break the conveyancing monopoly of solicitors. The Bill received its second reading in the Commons by 96 votes to 76 - majority 20, after a closure motion had been carried by 100 votes to 14, a majority of 86.

This occurred after Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General, had announced that the Government intended to introduce its own legislation to extend the right of conveyancing not just to registered land, with which the Bill dealt, but to all land, to solicitors employed by building societies and banks, subject to safeguards.

He indicated that the Government intended to proceed promptly so as not to delay the introduction of additional competition. The Government's mind was not closed to the possibility of solicitors employed by other than building societies and banks being included, but in some cases there might be conflict of interest.

The Director General of Fair Trading would ensure that competition was fair. The Government wanted to see house buying made simpler and cheaper. We have decided (he said) that more can be done to consider the process of conveyancing as a whole with a view to simplifying the practice and making it as efficient as possible and will set up a special committee under the Law Commission to examine various proposals and to ensure that the work going on in many areas is coordinated and the work kept under review.

Horsewoman fined for smuggling dog

Miss Sheila Wilcox, the leading horsewoman, was fined for smuggling her pet dog Gip for company after a riding accident in Germany.

She was so desperate to have the black, cross-bred Lurcher dog by her side that she persuaded friends to smuggle him back into Britain, bypassing quarantine rules and breaking the anti-rabies laws.

Miss Wilcox, aged 51, four times Badminton winner, and the only woman ever to win in three consecutive years, yesterday admitted permitting the dog to be landed at Dover in contravention of the rabies laws, and was fined £500 and ordered to pay Gloucestershire county council's £40 prosecution costs.

Magistrates at Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, were told Miss Wilcox, of Shenberr Hill, Stanton, Gloucestershire, was rebuilding her career after a fall in 1971 which left her partially paralysed, when a second accident happened last May.

She had gone to Germany for a dressage competition but fell again only days before competing seriously injuring her neck, ribs, pelvis, thigh and knee.

"I was told I would not ride again," she said in a statement to police "I could not bear to think of the future. I was extremely depressed and in a state of total despair. I decided to go home."

Mailcoach of the twentieth century

Like fresh-faced ghosts, three passengers brave the winter chill outside the Pack Horse Hotel in Louth, on the edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds, awaiting the postbus, just as their ancestors did two centuries before them.

The distinctive red and yellow 11-seater Dodge is a world away from the Royal Mail steam-coach which set off from the old coaching inn on the muddy road to London.

But the concept of carrying mail and passengers by road is the same, even though the route followed by Mr John Killick, the postman, is less exciting than that of his predecessors, a 25-mile circular loop round the countryside via Mackton Bottom.

On the way, Mr Killick, aged 49, who collects the fares, stops to empty 13 post boxes. It is one of three daily services run by the Post Office at Louth, the longest being the 55-mile morning run through Gosby, which takes five hours and 35 minutes because the postman has to deliver the mail on the way.

But the passengers, only the oldest of whom distantly remembers more conventional bus services through the wolds, are patient for it is better to take a time than to walk and better to keep rural communities in touch with each other than isolated.

Whitehall-police clash on drugs

The Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers may be heading for a collision over Whitehall criticism that chief constables are not responding strongly enough to Britain's increasing drug abuse problem.

Senior officials are understood to be extremely unhappy at the association's "lack lustre" reaction to a government policy statement this week by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, on curbing drug abuse.

Mr Brittan put forward the Government's plans in a speech on Wednesday. At the same time, the association issued a statement to coincide with his announcement.

The four-sentence statement, which went largely unreported, said that police shared the concern about drug abuse. While the police were working with customs officers on various initiatives, the problem, none the less, was one for society as a whole.

There was a need for an "inter-agency approach" involving the courts, doctors, teachers, social workers, and parents. The statement was greeted in Whitehall with the feeling that the police were little short of abdicating their own responsibility in fighting drug abuse. It was seen as another illustration of the difficulties the Home Office believes it is encountering.

Sailing ships rot in Falklands grave

By Tony Samstag

At least 500 wrecked British and American 19th century ocean-going sailing ships are rotting off the Falkland Islands because there is no preservation programme, the Falkland Islands Foundation says.

Its newsletter published this week described the ships as "the finest natural museum of nautical antiquity in the world" which "to the lurch of post-war Falklands are every bit as threatened as the wildlife".

Sir Peter Scott, who established the foundation in 1979, praised military efforts to minimise disturbance of the square riggers. Mr Michael Mensun Bound, a maritime archaeologist and an islander, says that the ships "are mostly survivors of the great trades which flourished during the last century with the west coast of South America and required the best ships in order to survive the heavy loads and the constant slamming west-erlies around Cape Horn".

But many could not take such punishment and limped into the Falklands harbours, turning them into the world's largest nautical graveyard. The wrecks have survived because of the islands' isolation and climate. Mr Bound says that the American vessels Charles Cooper and Snow Squall the most important. The Cooper, a packet ship built in 1856, "dominates Stanley's waterfront" but is in a critical condition.

The Snow Squall is "the only true survivor of a clipper ship" of which only about 40 foot is above water. Some ships have been bought by American museums

New bureaucracy feared

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Israel denies offering safe conduct for evacuation of Arafat

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The Israeli Government yesterday stepped up its war of nerves against Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader, by flatly denying that it had given any guarantee of safe conduct to the Greek authorities for his proposed evacuation from Tripoli.

The denial, which followed reports of contacts between Israel and Greece over the plan, was made by a senior Government official at a briefing for foreign journalists. "Israel did not give any commitment to anyone about this," he said in answer to repeated questioning.

The briefing, which came hours after Israel's fourth naval bombardment of PLO positions around the north Lebanese port, was apparently designed to maintain the high level of international apprehension surrounding the evacuation.

Asked if the central thrust of Israel's policy was to keep the world guessing, the official acknowledged candidly: "Maybe that is the name of the game."

Despite the denial of contacts, direct or indirect with the Greeks, it is still considered unlikely that Israel will launch any attack once Mr Arafat and his 4,000 men are on board their Greek vessels under escort from French and American

warships. But increased Israeli military action in Tripoli until the final moment of embarkation is considered a firm possibility.

Yesterday, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, held private talks with Mr Donald Rumsfeld, President Reagan's special Middle East envoy, at which the subject of the evacuation is understood to have been discussed. Neither party would give any account of the meeting to the press.

Earlier, Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, played his part in the policy of attempting to prevent, or at least delay, the PLO guerrillas' departure by again expressing the hope that Western nations would not "assist the evacuation of the PLO with their weapons to other locations where they can continue their terror activities against Israel and non-Israeli targets".

The minister claimed that Israel was trying diplomatic channels to try and persuade any nation preparing to assist in the evacuation to first get "a commitment from Arafat that he will lay down his arms and stop all terror activities".

Speaking after a memorial service for the 28 Israeli Druze Arabs so far killed in the Lebanon war, Mr Arens said on Thursday: "If we cannot con-

vince them to forbid Arafat and his terrorists to operate from anywhere else, we will have to consider the situation and decide what to do about it."

He then added ambiguously: "I hope we will not come to the point where we will be forced to open fire on the ships evacuating Arafat and the terrorists from Tripoli."

When asked directly whether Israel would, in fact, take such far-reaching action, Mr Arens described as "speculation".

Apart from the psychological gains from the climate of uncertainty, the Israelis are also determined on a rigid point of principle never to be seen giving a public guarantee of safe passage to Mr Arafat, whatever the Government's real intentions towards the evacuation may be.



Yuletide: Lance-Corporal Sowders, of the US peace-keeping force in Lebanon, rescuing his Christmas tree from a tent hit by rocket fire.

West sees hope in Pretoria's Angola offer

From Zoriana Pysarski, New York

The South African proposal for disengagement of its forces in southern Angola has been met with surprise and scepticism by black African countries, which saw it as a ruse to gain Western sympathy. The West, however, thought it offered possibilities for settling the issue of Cuban troops in Angola.

In a letter to the United Nations on Thursday, Mr R. F. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, said Pretoria was prepared to disengage its troops on condition that Angola provides assurances that it would not exploit the situation.

This meant that neither Angola's forces, nor Cuban troops protecting the MPLA regime, nor Swapo guerrillas operating from Angola with the aim of securing Namibia's independence, could make moves in the area. Although it was not spelled out, the offer sounded much like a proposal for a demilitarized zone.

The proposal in itself was not new, since it had been the subject of negotiations between South Africa and Angola which broke down earlier this year. South African officials said the date set to begin disengagement, January 31, was negotiable and meant to give impetus to a resumption of talks.

The offer came as the Security Council met at Angola's request to consider South Africa's occupation of southern Angola. Africans saw it as a preemptive move to escape serious calls for sanctions and reduce Western pressure for a Namibian settlement.

But the proposal fits in neatly with attempts by the five-member Western contact group to place the removal of South African forces from southern Angola within the context of Cuban withdrawal. Angola has rejected the idea of connecting a Namibian settlement with the departure of Cuban troops and, although the proposal is linkage by another name, it would seem to make it more palatable.

South Africa has said it will not give up Namibia unless it has an undertaking that the Cubans will leave. Although only the United States supports it in this position, many other countries are privately convinced that the two issues must go hand-in-hand if there is to be a Namibian solution.

The Angolan initiative in the Security Council is considered to be part of a domestic campaign aimed at rallying Angolans against the rebel Unita organization, which operates in the south with South African support and poses a threat to the stability of the government in Luanda.

While South Africa has never officially admitted that its forces are entrenched in southern Angola, Western analysts estimate that 2,000 to 3,000 troops are in the area.

No evidence Andropov is working again

Moscow (Reuters) - US and West European diplomats say they have no evidence that President Yuri Andropov is back at work after his four-month absence. They denied reports from Washington that western embassies in Moscow had already sighted him.

"A Politburo motorcade has been seen driving regularly to and from the Kremlin but so far there is no evidence that Andropov is inside it", one diplomat said.

A senior Communist Party spokesman, Mr Leonid Zamiatin, said last week that the 69-year-old President was recovering from an illness and already working again. Speculation now is whether he will appear at a plenum of the party's Central Committee on December 26 or 27.

Cocaine haul in New York

New York (AP) - A record 1,600 lb of cocaine with an estimated street value of £110m was seized and three men arrested in what the authorities said was the largest drug seizure ever in the New York city area.

The cocaine, described as high-quality Colombian, was found in duflin bags and boxes when a combined federal, state and city drug task force arrested the three men late on Thursday in Queens Borough.

Minister quits

Santiago (Reuters) - Chile's Foreign Minister Sergio Miguel Schwelbiger, resigned after 10 months defending the record of President Augusto Pinochet's military government. Last week the UN General Assembly passed its annual censure vote on Chile's human rights record.

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Envoy moved

Moscow (AP) - The Soviet Ambassador to Angola, Mr Vadim Loginov, has been "relieved of his duties and transferred to another post."

Tass said. He is replaced by Mr Arnold Kalinin, ambassador to Portugal between 1974 and 1982.

Basque blasts

Las Bardenas (Reuters) - An officer and a soldier were slightly injured when two bombs planted by suspected guerrillas went off at a military shooting range near this northern Spanish town.

Ice breaker

Yamoussoukro (AP) - Ghanaians working in the Ivory Coast gave an airport welcome to Ghana's military leader Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings who arrived for talks with President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, their first bilateral contact. Until now both have regarded each other with open suspicion.

Anger at 190 pc inflation

From Our Correspondent, Jerusalem

Israeli trade unionists yesterday launched a series of mass protest demonstrations directed at the Government's failure to solve the serious inflationary spiral now destined to produce an all-time record inflation rate between 190 and 200 per cent by the end of the year.

The three days of protest were prompted by the publication of official statistics showing that prices rose by 15.2 per cent during the single month of November, bringing to 40 per cent the erosion in wages registered over the past two months.

Despite the latest grim economic statistics, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the new Prime Minister, pledged publicly on Thursday that there would be no cutback in the costly programme of continuing to expand Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank.

The failure of his new Finance Minister, Mr Yigal Cohen-Orad, to exercise restraint on runaway inflation is posing a growing threat to the

Government's chance of winning the next election. All recent opinion polls have placed the ailing economy above the continuing involvement in Lebanon as the main cause of the Likud Government's declining popularity.

The new Finance Minister is now faced with the beginning of a workers' protest movement led by the Histadrut, the Israeli equivalent of the Trades Union Congress, aimed partly at his efforts to cut back the almost total index-linking of all inflationary price rises. The demonstrators are demanding an immediate payment of 17.9 per cent in the allowance given to every salaried employee in Israel to recompense them against the inflation rate.

A Treasury spokesman attempted to play down the severity of the latest price rises by claiming they had been expected. He blamed them squarely on the previous policies of Mr Yoram Aridor, who resigned ignominiously from the Finance Ministry in October

after details were leaked of his controversial scheme to switch the whole Israeli economy onto a US dollar basis.

But the claims did little to soften the effect of the latest price rises (including a 188 per cent increase in the cost of food products over the last 12 months) which, according to economic experts, means that the annual inflation rate for 1983 will be close to 200 per cent. This compares with recent government pledges that the rate of increase would soon be reduced, and inflation cut back to double figures.

During the past 11 months, prices in Israel have already risen by 160.5 per cent, ensuring that the annual figure will easily outstrip the previous record total of 132.9 per cent inflation reached in 1980 - also under a Likud government.

The new series of workers' demonstrations is just one of many pointers that the runaway rate of price increases is now beginning to threaten the whole social fabric of the country.

Police deter Solidarity protests

From Roger Boyes, Gdansk

A huge concentration of police in Gdansk and other Polish cities yesterday deterred Solidarity supporters from obeying the appeal of the underground opposition to stage large scale demonstrations and marches in town centres.

Riot police quickly dispersed a group of young Gdansk shipyard workers chanting "Solidarity, Solidarity" in front of the port's railway station. Hundreds of militia vehicles, including water cannon trucks, stood by in the streets of Wroclaw, Nowa Huta and Warsaw but at nightfall the situation was reported calm.

The main flashpoint was Gdansk. Here, in the birthplace of Solidarity, Mr Lech Walesa was due to deliver a speech setting out a programme for Solidarity supporters defining pressure points on the Government and areas in which the banned trade union should concentrate its activities.

But Mr Walesa, who is suffering from a high fever, did

not appear at the towering monument outside the Lenin shipyards which commemorate the striking workers who were shot on December 16, 1970. Instead, his wife Danuta - who also received the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of her husband - made the 500-yard trek from St Bridgid's Church to the Monument.

Several hundred riot police blocked off the approach roads and in a series of checkpoints sifted away the few hundred sympathizers who had followed her. In the end, only Mrs Walesa, a frail figure thickly coated against the sub-zero temperatures, and her secretary were allowed to lay a wreath.

"Speeches have to have audiences," Mr Walesa told reporters who telephoned his home, explaining why it was pointless to try and deliver his programme to a sea of blue uniforms. Shipyard workers leaving the yards after the end of the morning shift took in the row upon row of militia vehicles and their accompanying func-

tionaries and avoided the monument, walking instead to the railway station.

Here several dozen, perhaps as many as 150, started to chant but were quickly stifled by the police, who blocked the trams, cordoned off one side of the street and yelled at passersby to get into their trains or stay indoors.

In Warsaw, around Constitution Square where workers were supposed, had they followed the instructions of the underground, to gather, the police parked militia vans and checked the documents of Christmas shoppers. Women were told to empty their bags and Christmas trees were unwrapped to prove that they did not contain weapons or leaflets.

Several hundred Solidarity sympathizers subsequently walked through one of the main thoroughfares of the capital, carrying banners and brandishing banners and the police left them alone.

East block attacks on peace activists

From Our Own Correspondent, Warsaw

The policy of stationing new Soviet missiles in Eastern Europe has been accompanied by an extensive security police campaign against independent peace activists. Arrests, raids on flats, the interrogation of relatives, warnings to employers: it all seems a long way from the relative calm and immunity of the Greenham Common protest.

The official perception of the East European peace movement has been changed by the West German parliament's decision to approve deployment of US cruise and Pershing 2 missiles. Now, an outspoken peace protester in East Germany or Czechoslovakia is immediately suspected of damaging the vital defence interests of the state if he or she opposes the stationing of Soviet missiles.

This is a more serious offence than "anti-state activity" - the all-purpose anti-dissident legislation - applied against the peace movement in the past.

Two East Germans, Fraulein Beate Bohley and Frau Ulrike Poppe, of the Women for Peace group, were arrested recently after meeting a visiting British CND activist, Miss Barbara Einhorn, who was detained on the East-West border. Notes of the meeting were confiscated.

The Women for Peace group has at least 100 members, who have been organizing unofficial meetings. There are several small independent peace groups in East Germany - the most notable was in Jena, before arrests crippled it. Most shelter under the wings of the Protestant church.

The church, in turn, has been trying to steer the movement into opposing the militarization of East German society - compulsory military education

in schools, for example - rather than opposing the new Soviet missiles which is dangerous territory.

Both East Germany and Czechoslovakia have agreed to accelerate deployment of "operational-tactical" missiles on their territory in response to the missiles in West Germany.

This evoked rumblings among independent peace campaigners in Czechoslovakia, but without strong church protection, the movement has not thrived. Police have picked up anyone questioning the rationale of the Soviet deployment.

In Brno, police interrogated pupils from three schools after circulation of a petition opposing the missiles. Teachers were warned and reprimanded and one pupil, Petr Pospischal, was arrested when he travelled to Prague.

Earlier this year about 300 young people - officially described as drunken hooligans - made use of the government-sponsored Prague Peace Congress to stage a private peace demonstration. The sentiment behind it seemed to be a vague devotion to youth-cult figures - above all, John Lennon, the former Beatle - and their commitment to universal disarmament.

Although dissidents have had trouble recently in Hungary - above all, it has been difficult to maintain the flow of *szamdat* literature - the peace group known as Dialogue has continued to function. It does not attract the same interest as in East Germany, but it has been in the forefront of the debate about how far East European peace activists should separate the campaign for peace from the campaign for civil rights.

Polish film makers resist party rule

From Our Own Correspondent, Warsaw

Poland's film-makers have virtually excluded Communist Party members from their governing board and have approved the idea of a special studio unit to produce films of interest to Roman Catholics.

The decisions showed that Poland's cultural associations in the main banned or reorganized because of their political sympathy with Solidarity - still possess some independent life. Andrzej Wajda, Poland's leading director responsible for such films as *Man of Iron* and *Danton*, returned to Poland to address the congress of the film-makers this week, having been earlier persuaded to give up the presidency of the union.

"As a chairman, I have lost" he told the congress, "but this defeat could be turned into a victory if the association takes control of its own fate."

The film-makers responded well to his appeal. A Central Committee secretary, Mr Waldemar Swigon, had earlier told the film-makers that it would be unwise to reject Mr Wajda - whose support for Solidarity has always been strongly stated - that they should avoid political statements of support for the banned Writers' Union for example, and should have a large Communist Party representation. Instead, only five members of the 37 main board members are in the party and they - including the vice-chairman, Mr Jerzy Hoffman and the president, Mr Jerzy Kawalerowicz - were chosen more for their acknowledged skill as film-makers rather than for their political status.

One young film director said that as the majority of Poles were believing Catholics, it was only appropriate that a production unit be set up to make films on church themes.

Party directors opposed this but the new chairman of the association, Mr Janusz Majewski, said that the proposal should be put to a vote and the suggestion was carried overwhelmingly.

Whether the Government will make funds available for such an idea seems doubtful however - it is difficult to imagine a project that would upset the hardline Marxists in Prague and Moscow.

The main hardliner at the congress, Mr Bohdan Porciba, criticised Mr Wajda and the presentation of a prize to him by young film-makers.

Killings in Indonesia 'should be over now'

From Our Correspondent, Jakarta

The spate of summary killings of alleged criminals which human rights groups claim have left up to 4,000 dead in Indonesia this year were supposed to have ended in August. Mr Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, the Indonesian Foreign Minister said yesterday.

Mochtar, speaking at a press briefing, said: "The official position is that these things were not supposed to have occurred after the President's (National Day) speech in August when he said these measures have to be carried out within the dictates of the law."

The Foreign Minister said he had received notes from several foreign governments expressing concern over the killings, but said he had not yet seen a message from the International Commission on Human Rights which is also understood to have expressed concern over the killings.

The shootings of alleged criminals in main cities met with little opposition and considerable public approval when they started early this year. Newspapers carried front page photographs of bound and bullet-ridden bodies, many of them carrying the tattoos worn by ex-convict gangs.

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ANC man arrested in South Africa

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Five whites and an alleged black African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla have been arrested in the Johannesburg area. Major-General Frans Steenkamp, head of the South African Security Police, said the whites, including two women, were arrested as a result of investigations after the conviction for high treason last month of Mr Carl Niehaus, aged 23, a white student, and his fiancée, Miss Jansie Lourens. They are being held incommunicado under the Internal Security Act.

General Steenkamp described the black guerrilla as a well-known and trained ANC terrorist and said arms, including Soviet-made limpet mines, had been seized. Last week, Security Police announced the arrest of two suspected ANC guerrillas after a shootout in the Coloured Johannesburg suburb of Eldorado Park.

Meanwhile, security was stepped up in Johannesburg yesterday after a bomb blast on Thursday evening in a city-centre office of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Seven blacks, women office cleaners and watchmen were slightly injured in the explosion which occurred only a few minutes after the evening rush hour.

It was the third attack on government offices in Johannesburg - all carried out with limpet mines - this month.

Sea change: Signs appointing for apartheid will be put up around whites-only children's paddling pools on the beach front at Durban, South Africa's main coastal resort.



Many a slip: Reaching for a woman customer's lighter, Sydney waiter Richard Daldini fell from the Harbourwatch Restaurant's balcony and was left hanging 50ft up

Global abuse of journalists continues

By David Cross

The International Press Institute, the watchdog of press freedom, has issued more protests about abuses against journalists this year than at any time during its history.

Free speech is respected in only a small part of the globe, the institute says in its annual report published today. Highest on the list of protests is Turkey. Journalists and editors too numerous to mention have been sentenced to heavy fines or stiff jail terms, charged with offences which most people in

the free world would not even consider crimes.

Most of Eastern Europe continues to jail journalists and writers, as does most of Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Asia. "Some do not even bother with the luxury of direct measures like the bullet",

Newsmen and publishers have found that speaking the truth is not a guaranteed right of the individual, but something to be suppressed or distorted, the institute says. The signatories to the United Nations Charter on

Human Rights or the Helsinki Agreement are breaking their word. "Today, only a small part of the globe can boast that free speech is respected and honoured. The rest of the world is gagged."

The institute also criticizes the free press for reporting too little about abuses against journalists. "Those governments who are the worst offenders are often guided by the reactions of the outside world," it says.

The report also singles out South Africa as a country where press freedom is under constant

The secret of great Methode Champenoise has always been kept in the dark.

Look for the black bottle and discover the secret of Spain's premier sparkling wine.

GORDON NEGRO - DW'S

Vatican attacks boxing as coma victim worsens

Milan (Reuters) - The Vatican newspaper yesterday questioned the morality of boxing, as the condition of an Italian fighter who collapsed last weekend deteriorated.

An editorial in the *Osservatore Romano*, citing the case of Salvatore La Serra, who is in a coma, said no sport or spectacle could be accepted by a civilized conscience if it put human life at stake.

Other sports, such as car racing and mountaineering, were arguably more dangerous,

Mauroy intervenes in car dispute as recession bites deeper in France

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The recession, which came later to France than to most other industrialized countries, is finally beginning to pinch, causing unions and management to harden their positions and the Government to quake.

The announcement on Thursday by the car manufacturer Peugeot that it is to close indefinitely from Monday its factory at Poissy, outside Paris, where workers have been on strike for the past week in protest against redundancy plans, is almost certainly a sign of worse to come on the industrial front.

Peugeot, France's largest privately-owned car manufacturer, which is expected to lose 2 billion francs (£170m) this year, took the decision to lay-off its 17,000 workers at Poissy in an attempt to force the Government to accept its proposals for nearly 3,000 compulsory redundancies at the factory. The redundancies are part of an overall slimming plan for the company involving the loss of nearly 10 per cent of its 18,000 workforce.

It is a sign of the gravity with which the Government is treating the dispute that M. Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, has himself decided to take the matter in hand. Emergency meetings were taking place between the Peugeot management and the Government yesterday.

The long-brewing crisis in the car industry could not have come to a head at a worse time for the Government. Within the last week it has been severely attacked for the alleged inadequacies of its industrial policy by two groups from which it might have expected more

support - the Socialist CFDT union, and the Communist Party, which only a fortnight ago signed a new agreement with the Socialists pledging greater loyalty to the Government.

Describing the Government's industrial policy as "secretly inflexible and incoherent," M. Edmond Maire, the moderate general-secretary of the CFDT, accused the Government of following up its "magnificent promises" with silence. "They say nothing, they announce no plans, no schemes, no figures. They keep the unions in complete ignorance."

The Government was spending huge sums amounting to 52 billion francs (£4,300m) this year to try to stop the industrial decline, but nothing was being done to prepare for the future, he complained. He feared that the Government's "march into the dark" would lead workers "to despair."

The CFDT's cry of alarm is not totally devoid of self-interest, however. The union has been much criticized for being a "lady" of the Government, and at the social security elections last October, it saw itself drop from its traditional number two position in the trade union hierarchy to number three. It has lost 15 per cent of its membership over the past year.

It was also important for the CFDT that the Communists and the Communist-led CGT union should not be seen to be the only defenders of workers' jobs which are now being lost in the industrial sector at a rate of 30,000 a month, twice the rate at the beginning of the year. Furthermore, lay-offs are ex-

pected soon in coal, steel, construction, engineering, chemicals and textile industries.

A few days earlier, M. Georges Marchais, the Communist Party leader, wrote to M. Laurent Fabius, the Industry Minister, saying that it was "high time" that the Government followed its words by actions, and showed "greater rigour in keeping its promises in the crucial field of industry."

As M. Fabius was away, it was M. Max Gallo, the official Government spokesman, who launched the counter-attack. "To believe and to make others believe that you can always prevent redundancies, keep non-profitable businesses going, and accept ever greater losses, is to render a disservice to the workers, firms and the country, and disarm France in the tough field of international competition," he insisted.

The Government reluctance to help, lay-offs has also been referred to recently by M. Jacques Delors, the Finance Minister. "Some enterprises are declining, others are being born. The longer you keep the former in an oxygen tent, the more it will cost the taxpayer, and the less money there will be for new projects. And at the end of the day, instead of having 100 unemployed, you will have 200 unemployed," he said.

Figures announced yesterday show that the number of unemployed rose by 3 per cent last month, having been kept stable at around 2 million or just under 9 per cent of the workforce for more than a year.

The Government continues to insist that it will take what measures are necessary to prevent unemployment rising



President Mitterrand of France talking in Belgrade yesterday with Mr Dragomir Tulumirovic, aged 90, a veteran of the First World War, holding his unit's regimental flag. The French President placed flowers at a monument commemorating French assistance to Serbia during the First World War.

Plea to UN over activist's trial

The unofficial Soviet peace organization has appealed to the UN Secretary-General and to Western peace movements to prevent the impending trial of Mrs Olga Medvedkova, one of the group's founding members.

An appeal yesterday by the Group for the Establishment of Trust between the USA and the USSR said Mrs Medvedkova and four other unofficial activists had been arrested by police in October during the trial of Mr Oleg Radzinsky, a fellow member.

The peace campaigners were manhandled and detained in a derelict building by plainclothes policemen who refused to identify themselves.

The five were later released, but last week Mrs Medvedkova was charged with assaulting a police officer and ordered out to leave Moscow. She is to appear at the Moscow prosecutor's office on Monday.

Members of the group said they feared the authorities would arrange an unusually swift trial and sentence. Mrs Medvedkova, aged 34, a geographer and wife of the group's founder, Dr Yuri Medvedkov, is likely to be sentenced to three years' hard labour under the penal code.

Mrs Medvedkova said the four other activists had testified that she had at no time engaged in violence and that the peace group's policy was one of passive resistance. The group says it avoids both criticism of Soviet state policy and direct clashes with the authorities, but has been systematically persecuted since it was founded in June last year.

Dr Medvedkov said the decision to try his wife was part of a KGB secret police campaign to "pick off the group's steering committee one by one". The committee maintains strong links with Western peace movements and was visited by

more than a hundred Western campaigners this year.

Mrs Medvedkova said the authorities were apparently taking revenge for an incident last May when three founder members of the Greenham Common women's movement visiting Moscow took her with them to a meeting with the officials to listen to an exposition of the Group of Trust's aims and philosophy.

The Soviet group also said that any statements from prison by members should not be taken as genuine "if they conflict with our present convictions". This follows the release of a purported letter of repentance written by Mr Radzinsky from Siberian exile. It reached Western correspondents and also appeared in Mrs Medvedkova's postbox, even though the Medvedkovs have received no mail for a year. Their telephone has also been cut off.

Seaga storms to pyrrhic victory

By Jeremy Taylor

Jamaica faces the prospect of five years with a one-party Parliament. Having thrashed independent and fringe candidates in a mere six constituencies to Thursday's elections Mr Edward Seaga, the Prime Minister and the ruling Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) now control all 60 seats in the House of Representatives. The other 54 seats were won uncontested.

Mr Michael Manley's People's National Party (PNP) refused to contest them in protest at Mr Seaga's failure to honour a 1980 agreement on electoral reform.

Mr Seaga had called a election two years early citing a crisis of confidence after the PNP had called for his resignation as Finance Minister. His personal popularity had increased after he helped to engineer the American-led invasion of Grenada six weeks ago and the affairs had also distracted attention from the Government's failure to produce the economic recovery it promised. Mr Seaga's gamble has now bought the JLP another five years.

However, the Opposition boycott leaves a large question mark over the election result. Mr Manley, who argues that the three-year-old voting list disenfranchises 15 per cent of the electorate and contains 100,000 names of people who have died or migrated, knows that Mr Seaga has a very difficult task ahead in producing economic recovery, the swift implementation of the agreed electoral reforms followed by fresh elections.

Jamaica's economy is still far from the "deliverance" that Mr Seaga promised when he swept to power in 1980. He managed to negotiate a large support programme from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) borrow more than \$1,000m (£714m), produce the first positive economic growth in nearly a decade and revive tourism.

But Jamaica has been unable to earn the hard currency it needs. A weak market for its main commodity, bauxite, together with rock bottom sugar prices and heavy debt servicing - \$530m this year - have robbed the island of precious foreign exchange.

Unemployment is steady at around 26 per cent. Inflation is increasing sharply after being brought below 5 per cent and last summer factories were working at an average of only 49 per cent of capacity.

A series of experiments with multiple exchange rates and a parallel currency market failed to bring in the expected flow of foreign exchange and at the end of September Jamaica failed for the second time this year to meet the quarterly performance test of the IMF, severely embarrassing Mr Seaga, causing a 43 per cent devaluation and leading directly to premature elections.

A new 15 months standby credit with the IMF is being completed.

Mr Seaga promises that the lack of Parliamentary opposition will not result in an "insensitive Government". But the election result could lead to increasing political tension or a resurgence of political violence.

Argentina to find out why 7,000 disappeared

From Douglas Tweedale

President Raul Alfonsín has appointed a commission to investigate the disappearance of more than 7,000 people who vanished during the Argentine military campaign against urban terrorism in the 1970s.

The 16-member commission, which includes journalists, authors, churchmen and scientists known for their concern about human rights violations will have access to military and Government records in order to determine what happened to the missing persons.

The commission will have no power to try those responsible for the murders, but has been instructed to submit all evidence of possible crimes to the courts. It is to produce a report on its findings in six months' time.

Argentine human rights groups have documented the disappearance of more than 7,000 people who are believed to have been kidnapped and killed by Government security forces during what the military has called its "dirty war" against left-wing subversion from 1976 to 1981.

But relatives of disappeared people and human rights activists believe the figure of missing people is closer to 30,000, due to the many incompletely documented cases and instances of disappeared persons whose families did not report them as missing out of fear.

Meanwhile, former President Isabel Peron, who was overthrown by the 1976 military coup, prepared to leave Argentina after a one-week visit during which she met President Alfonsín and began what is expected to be a thorough purge of the Peronist party which she formally heads.

Senora Peron was flying back to Madrid for what she promised would be a brief stay before returning to take full charge of the movement she inherited from President Juan Peron.

Iran's war fever fuels Iraqi panic

By Richard Dowden

As the Gulf war grinds through its fourth year, the Iraqi war fever has fuelled a panic in Baghdad that Iran's internal politics dictate that it must continue until the Baghdad Government falls.

The war is going well for Iraq, draining its resources and forcing it to be dependent on the Gulf States. Meanwhile the heavy casualties - some estimates say Iraq has lost nearly a quarter of a million dead - help to maintain the revolutionary fervour and concentrate the minds of the people on an external enemy. The Khomeini regime has invested too much in the war to end it with anything less than the fall of President Saddam Husain of Iraq.

It is sometimes suggested that the return of the Iranian Army from the front would create problems for the regime, but the troops have been purged and indoctrinated and the political capital accrued from the defeat of Iraq could keep the regime going for years.

The war channels the energies of the militant youth. One Revolutionary Guard told me: "When we have rid Iraq of Baathism, we shall liberate Lebanon and Palestine."

While the tactics of the Pasdaran, the Revolutionary Guards, are similar to Hitler's Brown Shirts or Mao's Red Guards, their fervour mingled with leftist fury gives them a self righteousness and the conviction of having God on their side. "Our revolution is to change people not just structures," one told me. "I have a duty to protect you from harming yourself by failing to obey the law of God just as I have a duty to stop you jumping off that building."

Supplied with fleets of new white Nissan Jeep-style vehicles they force their way through the Tehran traffic with an arrogant disregard for traffic laws or civil police. Their uniforms are gun-coloured clothes, anorak or jacket, open-neck shirt and at least three days growth of beard. Some of them have bulges under their jackets. They pursue sin as vigilantly as political opposition and are as likely to

be seen stopping a woman for not having a proper veil as leading the crowds in chanting slogans against their enemies.

The question in many people's minds is whether they can be controlled or whether they and their leader, Mohsen Rezaei, will become an independent force.

It is the Pasdaran who have effectively made Khomeini the undisputed ruler of Iraq. They have crushed the Mujahadeen, the Islamic leftist opposition, and recently they attacked the offices of the Freedom Party, the only surviving secular party in the Majlis (parliament).

Although there is great discontent in Iran over the war, the shortages and the imposition of Islamic law, there is no organisation able to harness it into political opposition. Only the Grand Ayatollahs present any resistance to their fellow cleric but since their main objection to Khomeini is that the Ulama (clergy) should not be involved in politics they cannot take their opposition further without undermining their own position.

The question every observer asks is what will happen when Khomeini dies. Although he is apparently removed from the structures of government, all power passes through his hands and his word is law. But he represents more than political leadership and his power will not die with him. If they grab his mantle his successors will be able to rule in his name for some time. Provision has been made for the election of one, three or five successors but it seems likely that Hojjatolislam Akbar Rafsanjani, the Speaker of the Majlis, will assume the reins of government and Ali Hussein Montazeri the only Grand Ayatollah who totally supports Khomeini, (he is also his son-in-law) will assume a figurehead role. These two politicians have been making moderate statements over the past year trying to reassure the professional and commercial classes.

But there is little evidence that the Ayatollah is near to dying. He is 81 but is said to be in good health and has a brother aged 96. He and the Gulf war could be with us for some time.

UN move threatens Antarctic Treaty

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

A United Nations study on the status of Antarctica and the exploitation of its resources has been requested by the General Assembly in a move that could jeopardize the meticulously constructed Antarctic Treaty and pave the way for universal decision-making in the region.

Any attempts to unravel or tamper with the treaty which sets aside conflicting claims to sovereignty over the continent and contains vital disarmament provisions, are expected to encounter stiff resistance from the United States and the Soviet Union. The treaty is one of those rare instances in which the two super powers find themselves in agreement.

The treaty has been in existence for 24 years without attracting much notice, comprising an alliance of 14 initial consultative parties.

The report provides a period of grace for the treaty's 16 consultative parties who joined in the consensus resolution calling for the report rather reluctantly. Faced with an immediate confrontation, they chose the lesser of two evils, but the issue will undoubtedly become an emotive one in a year's time. Delegates recalled that the genesis of the now concluded Law of the Sea Treaty was a seemingly innocuous statement by Malta calling for the sharing of the sea's wealth.

This time Malaysia, which explored ways to make its international mark, came up with the idea of launching an international debate on Antarctica, a claim which was quickly echoed by a majority of the UN's membership who do not like the treaty's "gentlemen's club".

Senor Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Secretary-General, has been given a year in which to prepare the report. He will have to thread a fine line between the signatories of the treaty and the rest of the world's nations which would like to see Antarctica declared the common heritage of mankind, and make its largely untapped resources available to all.

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This time Malaysia, which explored ways to make its international mark, came up

Poll shows Mondale is Democrats' choice

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The approach of Christmas brings good news for Mr Walter Mondale but disappointment for Senator John Glenn. According to a poll carried out by The Washington Post-ABC News, the former Vice-President is continuing to poll ahead of Senator Glenn and six other Democrats seeking the 1984 Presidential nomination.

Mr Mondale's support among registered Democrats is now equal to that of all the other candidates combined. The poll showed that Mr Mondale is the choice of 49 per cent of registered Democrats, compared with 23 per cent for Senator Glenn, 10 per cent for the Rev Jesse Jackson and 8 per cent for Mr George McGovern.

One of the poll's most significant findings is that Mr Mondale is running stronger against President Reagan than Senator Glenn. Mr Mondale and Mr Reagan are now neck-and-neck among registered voters.

The poll also shows that Mr Mondale's support is highest where it counts most - he is to gain the Democratic nomination next year - among those most likely to vote in Presidential primaries which are scheduled to get under way in February.

A separate poll carried out by the Louis Harris Organization has indicated that President Reagan's overall approval rating has begun to slip after rising sharply following the Grenada invasion.

Author who accused paper jailed

From Marin Modiano, Athens

The author of a book accusing the top-selling Athens daily *Ethnos* (The Nation), a leftist tabloid, of being an instrument of disinformation of the KGB, the Soviet intelligence service, was sentenced by an Athens court to two years' imprisonment.

Mr Paul Anastasiadis, a Cypriot journalist working in Athens as a correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph* and *The New York Times* was found guilty on two counts of libel. He was set free pending appeal.

His book, *Take The Nation In Your Hands* (the paper's main advertising slogan) was banned by the court, but after the appeal was lodged, the order was rescinded.

Mr George Bobolias, publisher of *Ethnos*, who has business links with the Soviet Union, and the paper's editor, Mr Alekos Filippopoulos, were awarded damages of £110 each.

The court's verdict rejected the defendant's conclusive evidence that *Ethnos* had been published in cooperation with the KGB's disinformation department to influence Greek public opinion in favour of Soviet policies.

Coup officer swindled orphan fund

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Antonio Tejero, who held the Spanish Parliament at gunpoint during the 1981 coup attempt, has been accused of investing for his own gain, money which he had promised would go to the orphans of "victims of terrorism".

Tejero, a former Civil Guard lieutenant-colonel, is serving a 30-year sentence for military rebellion. He gave the promise about the money after *El Alcazar*, the extreme right-wing Madrid daily, collected more than 18 million pesetas (£30,000) from an appeal it launched to help him to pay the fines the court martial also imposed.

The accusation against Tejero is one of the conclusions of an all-party committee set up by Andalucia's regional parliament to investigate the collapse last year of the Rural Savings Bank of Jaen, which is the centre of Spain's olive oil industry.

The committee, after a one-year investigation, found that Tejero invested the money transferred to him by the newspaper and was subsequently helped to withdraw it with the interest, by executives of the bank just before it was saved by government intervention. Other investors were not so lucky and lost money.

Denmark faces election on January 10

From Christopher Enlett, Copenhagen

A general election was called late on Thursday night in Denmark for January 10 following the failure of the 15-month-old Conservative-Liberal minority coalition Government to secure a parliamentary majority for its 1984 budget.

The Finance Bill, the hub of the austerity policies of Mr Povl Schluter, Denmark's first Conservative Prime Minister since 1901, was rejected by 93 votes to 77 in the Folketing (Parliament) after a grueling 12-hour debate.

The Bill contained drastic public expenditure cuts affecting social services and sickness and unemployment benefits designed to reduce Denmark's state budget deficit from this year's 62,000m kroner (£4,400m) to around 58,000m kroner (£4,084m), the first drop in the country's budget deficit in a decade.

Mr Schluter said that he was asking the electorate for an improved mandate to continue his Administration's policies of economic revival. The Social Democrats, the largest opposition grouping, voted against the budget for the first time since 1929 along with two leftist parties when the anti-tax Progress Party of Mr Mogens Glistrup, the tax lawyer currently serving a three-year sentence for gross tax fraud, refused to support the Government after insisting unsuccessfully on further cuts in public spending.

Only the small centrist Radical Party supported the coalition in the vote. The defeat of the Government on its economic policy followed a recent series of humiliating parliamentary rebuffs on foreign policy issues, notably Nato missile deployment policy which Mr Schluter has been found unwillingly to oppose by the opposition.

Recent opinion polls predict a landslide victory for Conservatives who stand to almost double their present 26 seats in Parliament at the cost, however, of their coalition partners. This makes it extremely doubtful whether Mr Schluter will be able to form a majority Administration after re-election.

Only two out of Denmark's political parties will run in the elections. There are only nine in the current 179-seat parliament. The last Danish general election was in December 1981.

Why Britain's rebate was blocked

Three pretenders to the EEC throne

An intense power struggle is under way between the three main institutions of the EEC to decide who actually rules in the Community. As a result, Britain, this week saw an agreed budget rebate blocked by the Parliament, while the whole Community is teetering on the brink of a destructive cash crisis.

The power struggle derives from the fact that the 14-member Commission has been unable to prevent the Council settling into the driving seat of all the Community processes. At the same time, the Parliament, anxious to make a name for itself before next June's direct elections, is jostling for attention.

The Council can claim the right to be top dog for one reason - it pays. All the money to run the Community has to come from the different member states, whose representatives sit as the Council when they meet. They must always agree. Indeed, in recent months, they have been able to agree on distressingly few things. But they all recognize that they must collectively retain control over the purse strings.

With the failure of the Athens summit to accept reforms essential if the Community is to continue and develop, the Commission has begun a late bid to seize back the initiative. And, in doing so, it is relying heavily on the support of the Parliament, which is also resentful of the Council's power.

The day after the summit ended, the Commission produced a declaration and announced a new strategy - or rather announced its intention of returning to the old strategy. In future, it said, the Community would return to the original role book laid out in the Treaty of Rome. That said, in essence, that the Commission proposes and the Council disposes.

Mr Gaston Thorn, the Commission President, spelled this out clearly before the Parliament last Tuesday. In future, he said, the Council would not be allowed to make its own proposals it would have to confine itself to amending Commission proposals. The Commission would stick firmly to its ideas.

Mr Thorn described the chaotic way the preparations for Athens had led inevitably to

failure. With too many countries making too many proposals, the inevitable happened.

Parliament applauded him. Like Mr Thorn, it has been resentful of the way the Council has been usurping its rights. It took the council to court for failing to agree to a transport policy in line with the treaty obligations. With the failure of Athens, it believes that it too can steal the limelight as the responsible European institution and can thus attract popular support in the June elections.

The vote to freeze the British rebate was not revenge on Britain for the failure of the summit. It was taken because this gesture was the only one it could legally make - and there remains doubt as to its legality - to protest at the Athens' failure.

With the Community so short of money, the Council is much more anxious to reassert itself. France, perhaps more than any other country, is particularly keen to restrict Parliament's role.

This was behind French ideas before the Athens summit to fix strict limits to Community spending. The system it proposed would have reduced Parliament's authority in the budget process to virtually nothing.

There is no great belief in the Council that the Commission has the leadership or initiative to win more power.

In the words of one diplomat: "These boys don't have the guts to do anything but mean."

Japanese conservatives head for victory despite vague poll predictions

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

Polsters remained remarkably vague over just how well Japan's ruling Conservative Liberal Democrats (LDP) will perform when voters go to the polls in Sunday's general election, the first in three and a half years, as candidates took advantage of the last few hours of an indecisive 15-day campaign.

What is virtually certain is that Japan will wake up on Monday to find the conservatives still in charge. Opposition parties are expected to face mixed results, with the biggest the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), battling uphill. Japan, therefore, will continue to pursue the increasingly outwards-looking and nationalistic policies being shaped by Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister.

popularity contest, rather than a referendum on national policies. Most importantly, the results will probably fore-shadow Mr Nakasone's chances of remaining as leader in a party vote late next year.

US accepts Australian nuclear arms curb

From Tony Dubondia Melbourne

Canberra believes the United States has accepted its position that nuclear-armed warships will be allowed to use Australian dry docks only in emergencies. But talks with Britain have not been so fruitful.

Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, said on Thursday that, after telephone discussions between Mr Gordon Scholes, the Defence Minister and his British and US counterparts, differences with Washington had been resolved.

However, talks between Canberra and London had not been so successful after the dispute over the ban on the British aircraft carrier Invincible using the navy dry-dock at Garden Island, in Sydney Harbour. Invincible now seems certain to go to Singapore for repairs. The ship is scheduled to spend Christmas in Australia.

"I would think in respect of the United States the matter is resolved," he understood and there will be no problems here. There is a bit more discussion going on with the United Kingdom. This matter will be resolved in a way which is totally satisfactory to our allies and to us, without any change in principle.

"These lurid suggestions that our alliances in some way or another are threatened are just hogwash," Mr Scholes said he had initiated talks with Mr Heseltine, the British Defence Secretary and Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, to discuss "the means by which the existing guidelines on visits by allied naval vessels can be developed to take account of special requirements for dry-docking."

On Thursday Mr Scholes visited the Invincible and lunched with her captain and the British High Commissioner, Mr John Mason. Afterwards, Mr Scholes blamed the media and the federal opposition for the problems over the issue of docking nuclear-armed vessels.

India's cars to lose their 1950s look

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

The look of India's roads is about to suffer a drastic change. "It is a revolution," exclaimed one of the senior civil servants who is masterminding it.

At present the cars on streets here look as though they might have popped out of a film made in the 1950s. If you remember the Morris Oxford of that era you have the image of the Ambassador, the most popular transport in the country; indeed the only car made here that comes near to taking comfortably the full weight of an Indian family.

Remember the old Fiat 124? That is the other principal car on the road. A small car, seriously underpowered all the same, which looks a trifle more dashing than the heavy, round-shouldered Ambassador.

The only other Indian car is now out of production, but there are still a number of them around. They are based on the sharp-looking Triumph Vitesse of the latter 1950s.

Foreign cars are not much seen. When they are they belong either to diplomats or to pop stars. The cost of import tax is horrendous.

But this week a new generation of cars began to appear. On the birthday of her late son Sanjay, Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, formally inaugurated the assembly line of a new car, planned by Sanjay as a people's car. It is produced by a Government-owned factory specially built just outside Delhi and is called the Maruti - named after the goddess of the winds.

Commentators have been sniping at the project ever since, but at last the first cars have appeared, and the sniping has turned against the waiting list of people who want to have one. The first year's production is already well oversubscribed, and cars are to be sold on a lottery basis.

The car is fundamentally a small Suzuki, and is being manufactured in cooperation with the Japanese. It has disc brakes, front wheel drive, a modern wedge shape and a petrol consumption which is half that of the "gas-guzzlers" at present on the road.

Though not officially announced, both the other major car manufacturers hope to be able to launch new fuel-efficient models shortly. Hindustan Motors, the manufacturer of the Ambassador, are expecting to produce a vehicle with engine and transmission by the Japanese firm Inuzu, and a body like the Vauxhall produced by General Motors in England.

Premier Motors in Bombay, who produce the Fiat, are also in talks with foreign manufacturers to produce a new version. Even Standard Motors in Madras, who used to produce the Triumph-based model, still have a motor car production licence and may be tempted into the field by the lifting of price control which has accompanied the new policy.

The civil servants certainly hope so. It is claimed by the car manufacturers that they were inhibited from modernizing their model lines by stringent price control in the past.

The Government would like to see what happened in the tractor industry repeated with the cars. There more than 10 firms entered the market when price control was lifted. The intense competition created its own price controls, but at a realistic level.



Susan Fleetwood as Prince Charming: Skillful note of ardour

Tradition served up limp

Cinderella Lyttleton

Much as the nation may hunger and thirst for a return to traditional Christmas pantomime, the National Theatre has gone beyond the call of duty with this limp museum piece.

The work of Bill Bryden, Trevor Ray and the company, it is a *faux naïf* exercise, requiring the audience to respond to the story as if they had never heard it before. The style is directly opposite to that of the Players' Theatre's Victorian burlesques. And although there is a safety curtain decorated with faded advertisements for Ellman's Embrocation and Bull Dog Bottled Beers, it relates to no particular period.

The idea is to conjure up a timeless romance, drawing on the old routines and painted scenic effects of a vanished age, and leave the story to do its work. Resorting to the most destructive word in my vocabulary, I can only describe the result as "tasteful".

On the design side, there is a glaring disparity between the sets and costumes. William Dudley's dropcloths and wing pieces take you from a wintry opening to a sunny finale by way of an elaborate sequence of

delicately muted interiors and palatial prospects. Against them, Deirdre Clancy dresses the company in bright metallic tights and harsh primary colours. The intention seems to be to draw maximum attention to the artificiality of the spectacle; asking spectators simultaneously to take the story straight and to view it as if between quotation marks.

The same thing applies to the dialogue, most of which consists of exasperating panto couplets, full of badly scanned lines and tortuous inversions: none of which is ever played for a laugh. You can admire the skill with which Susan Fleetwood's gleaming voluptuous Prince manages to extract a note of heartfelt ardour from the tongue-twisting banalities she has to get through; but more striking is the sheer perversity of the operation.

How, one wonders, can an acting company of this quality have cooked up such tasteless parts for themselves. I had hopes of Marsha Hunt's transformed Dandini ("Charmin's name, Ruling's my game"), but the part soon fades out into a smirking side-kick. Trevor Ray, as the Baron, is credited with no characteristics whatever apart from a habit of turning up as a Scout Master, a Red Indian, and other rig-outs.

As for the Uglics, a nut-cracker-jawed Derek Newark and Robert Stephens snaking on like a pensioned-off geisha, take comic make-up to the limit, but otherwise occupy an aridly undercharacterized zone of spotted bloomer jokes and groan puns.

Meanwhile, a sizable pit orchestra confines itself mainly to supplying piano and violin accompaniments for parlour song-book items and pumping out Paderewski's minuet for the *bal masque*. There are more rousing numbers, but even when Mr Bryden's stage looks underpowered - as, in the sight of the Prince dancing with Janet Dibley's colourless Cinders surrounded by an inert half-circle of guests.

The pace of the production is leisurely, even in the routines of Jack Shepherd and John Tams, as the brokers' men who come on saying "We are the brokers' men". The only figures to benefit from this are the reluctant Demon (James Grant) whom Mr Bryden has boldly imported from the Glasgow Empire; and the wordless decorators, whose duel with the brushes and paste earns its laughs from the extreme of relaxed slow-motion.

Joseph's schemings less for their cynical selfishness than for polished comedy, uttering his pious maxims in a wisecracker's voice belying his youthful looks.

Some touches have lost sharpness, notably the exquisitely comic auction scene, with Charles idly holding the crucial Sir Oliver portrait in his free hand while the old gent, unrecognized, fascinatedly awaits its fate. But Michael Sibery's Charles, a wastrel who like Lord Rochester is never quite sober, and Michael Denison's ripe Sir Oliver happily reappear, along with Dulcie Gray's drily detached Lady Snerwell and Gordon Gostelow's lovably uncaricatured Moses.

Nicola Pagett, the new Lady Teazle, has an abrasiveness and sparkle more a chastened *amoureuse* than a dizzy butterfly poignantly coming to her moral senses. Clive Francis, another newcomer, mines

School for Scandal

Duke of York's

I liked John Barton's production very much at the Haymarket in February, and enjoyed seeing it again. Christopher Morley's perspective set of receding processions, knowingly borrowing motifs from the Haymarket's decor, gains from the intimacy of this tiny jewel-box as much as it loses in point.

And the elegant austerity of its septa fabrics and bare wood floor fits the production's best qualities: alert intelligence and an awareness, never outweighing the comedy, of the darker realities of trying to build a loving marriage in a bitchy society.

Radio

Strong ideas at a quiet pitch

"I wouldn't want them to be too cautious, but I would want them to be sensible." Thus, in our 1983 Reith Lecture, Sir Douglas has explained his commission in his final lecture (Radio 4, Wednesday, producer, David Morton) as a means of enlarging public influence on the doings of government. The key words, "not too cautious, but sensible" might equally be taken as the epitome of Sir Douglas's entire approach.

Of course, we have problems with speakers of his particular stamp. Our addiction to the exciting, combative style of discourse which television, and to a lesser extent radio, so obligingly serves, sometimes makes it rather difficult to see as trenchant criticism anything whose content of emotion and other noise falls below a certain rather lofty threshold. Yet the words "This could all be a lot better", spoken rather soft or set in 10-point type, may well refer to exactly the same set of circumstances as "Lecturer slams inefficiency", either shouted or in banner headlines several inches high.

Lucidity of expression. In each lecture he has fixed on one or more problems of government - such as the tendency of cabinets to evade genuine policy discussion, the serious inadequacy of resources and support which always undermines a party in opposition and the failure of successive governments to face the fact of a better informed, less biddable electorate.

He has gone on to examine what else might be done, rejecting many attractive alternatives on cogent arguments of impracticability. But he has left standing a number of interesting possibilities, including the permanent royal commission, which ought to be a lasting approach to governments if they fail to explore them.

THE ARTS

Concert

Opposites attract

Writing of Webero's Four Pieces for violin and piano in the current *Musical Times*, Arnold Whittall makes the highly provocative suggestion that we have been wrong to look for seeds of unity in atonal music of this sort, that we should rather expect a range of contrasts displayed and completed. Perhaps this is something that performers of Webero have known all along.

Certainly the performers of these same pieces, Ruth Crouch and Shelagh Sutherland, allowed the first movement simply and gently to play out its balance of oppositions, with evenly sustained violin notes and justly weighted piano chords that had relinquished all shaping effort.

The faster numbers, though, demanded and got a more hectic engagement, for it is only when the notes are few that they can wholly dislocate themselves from any unifying force.

On the other hand, there is Brian Ferneyhough's ironically titled *Unity Capsule*, the Anna-Purina II of flute music, where the "capsule" is a quarter-hour stretch of the most fiendishly difficult music spinning off in every conceivable direction. Here, too, the performer is meant to be frustrated in his attempts to bend the music to

his own purposes, since there is so very much else to think about, and Ingrid Culliford last night came closer than anyone else in my experience to the ideal of dedication.

She openly acknowledged the strain she was under while sneaking there and achieving a thoroughly remarkable intensity of effort and variety of effect. A concluding gasp was her one moment of self-dramatization, thoroughly justified.

If Ferneyhough is one of the few composers still seriously concerned with the energy of fragmentation in Webero's music from around 1910, Ligeti well represents the alternative comic viewpoint. It was a good piece of programming to follow *Unity Capsule* with his *Novus actus primus* and its absurd drama of disintegrated music for three singers and seven players.

Penelope Walmsley-Clark, Linda Hirst and Bruce Ockton acted out their myriad vocal personae with happy enthusiasm under well-tempered direction from Odaline de la Martinez.

Miss Walmsley-Clark took a quite different role, that of eloquent but ice-cold enchantress, in Oliver Knussen's setting of an Apollinaire vision, *Océan de terre*. This beautifully made score, variously globular and sprightly, was firmly tackled by Loniano.

Paul Griffiths

Television

Hearty mischief

A kind of ill-health clinic where the disaffected affluent go to be stuffed with over-rich food, sufficed with expensive wines, subjected to unaccustomed exercise, and patronized by the proprietor was the situation of Andrew Davies's black comedy *Heartattack Hotel* on BBC2 last night.

Usually the two functions of over-indulgence and over-exercising are separated. Both frequently have great expense in common, with less of a guilt-feeling, and less satisfaction (perhaps, attaching to the latter).

Despite the coincidence of gourmet living with a regimen calculated to strain an SAS man, none of the guests in this hotel had any early suspicion of mischief afoot. Nor were they alerted by the extraordinary nature of their companions or the extravagant behaviour of the owner, played just short of extravagantly by Michael Gough.

The hero, a doctor - 40, fed-up, and fast-fading - is seeking

Dennis Hackett

Opera

Earthbound

Hansel and Gretel Bloomsbury

The Bloomsbury Theatre is celebrating Christmas, and its hosting over the last two or three years of a stimulating run of "fringe" opera productions, with a show of its very own, *Hansel and Gretel*, long absent from London's professional stages, is the theatre's first house production, and the main sponsor, Prudential, has given free tickets for a theatre-full of underprivileged children on Christmas Eve.

In view of all this it would be nice to report, with Gretel, the "this place must be enchanted". But, alas, it is not. Not only for the sweetness of her voice is Eileen Hulse's Sandman one of the most potent forces of the evening. Humperdinck's music, full of echoes and surprises, of forest murmurs and sparks of Straussian magic, is flattened by the theatre orchestra and Christopher Fittled to a soporific mezzo-forte of mood and movement.

On stage too, the dramatic tension that is lacking in Christopher Renshaw's staging

Hilary Finch

Treasure chest

Tokyo (AP) - A bakery lorry driver, scrounging for boxes in a Tokyo dump, discovered 50m yen (£150,000) worth of diamonds, emeralds, sapphires and rubies discarded in error by a jeweller's staff. His reward for turning them in was £15,000.

Panda prizes

Peking (Reuters)-Chinese peasants are being offered rewards of up to 500 yuan (£175) for saving starving giant pandas, the *China Daily* reported. The reward is about double the annual income of the average peasant.



Revolution ahead: The present 1950s-style look of traffic

Mexico's democratic tyranny

By John Cartin

President Miguel de la Madrid has said on several occasions that he will not stoop to repression to preserve his ruling party's traditional stranglehold on Mexican political life. But this week hundreds of soldiers allegedly used guns, clubs and tear-gas to quell protests by members of a left-wing party in the impoverished Mexican south.

Despite heavy government restrictions on press coverage, reports have surfaced of many injuries after thousands of men and women in Juchitán, in the state of Oaxaca, fought troops on Tuesday over possession of the town hall, a potent symbol for Mexicans of political authority.

On Wednesday soldiers and police arrested 300 members, including all the leaders, of the local left-wing Coalition of Workers, Peasants and Students (COWPE). The COWPE claims that the PRI wrested power from them unfairly in municipal elections in early November. Subsequently they refused to relinquish possession of the town

hall, which they had held since winning elections in March, 1981.

Gun-toting PRI henchmen have a history of terrorizing COCEI sympathizers in Juchitán.

President de la Madrid came to power a year ago with expansive claims that he would "morally renovate" traditionally corrupt Mexican politics. But after "clean" elections in July yielded triumphs for the opposition unprecedented during 50 years of uninterrupted PRI rule, the PRI has been winning elections in other states by its usual, astonishingly ample margins.

Past experience in Mexico has indicated that, whenever its massive political authority is under threat, the PRI's lurking capacity for violence and fraud will tend to rise to the surface. Mexican human rights groups claim that more than 600 people have "disappeared" for political reasons in Mexico in the last 10 years.

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THE TIMES DIARY

No trouble brewing

It is disappointing to learn that the England cricketers will not have to confess to hopeless alcohol addiction to obtain a foreigners' drinking permit when they visit the Islamic state of Pakistan in the New Year.

Vat VIIX

The same traveller swears that there is a brand of South American whisky which boasts on the label "Brewed in the cellars of Buckingham Palace by George VI himself".

Tacked swiftly

There are about a dozen new rugby books in the shops at present, all the fruits of the usual protracted agonies. It takes a man like Andy Ripley to write a book in one afternoon.

Heresy

In India, the three great concerns of life are politics, religion and cricket. The boundaries between them have never been clearly defined. After Jodha's debacle in the fifth Test against the West Indies at Calcutta, the matter was raised in Parliament.

Doc and Cop

Managers: I am afraid that associating Tommy Docherty with a vacant managerial job is hardly front page stuff. Still, the current speculation linking him with the vacancy at Stoke has the redeeming novelty of placing Steve Coppell as his number 2.

Managers: Final proof of the supremacy of the cult of manager comes in Match magazine. I spent much of my childhood scoring goals against the garage door when I was Roy of the Rovers, but Match's hero, Harry Cannon, is "boss of once great Stantown Town whose attempts to clear his name following the disgrace of a bribe scandal have touched a raw nerve with the underworld".

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The Horse-traders' Handicap

by Julian Haviland

The struggle for the chairmanship of the Select Committee on Defence has entertained spectators at Westminster this week and some of the participants - cheerfully mopping their bleeding noses yesterday - enjoyed it too.

On Thursday the Prime Minister, through the exertions of the Government Chief Whip Mr John Wakeham, succeeded in imposing on the Defence Committee, against the will of the majority of its members, the chairman of her choice, Sir Humphrey Atkins.

As a former Northern Ireland Secretary, in daily contact for two and a half years with senior figures in the armed services, Sir Humphrey has been more closely concerned with defence matters than his critics have allowed. He may prove more expert and less compliant than they expect.

But Mrs Thatcher, who had to deploy all her powers of patronage to put Sir Humphrey in place, did not do so to strengthen a committee which may well ask awkward questions when the Treasury next

raids the defence budget or when the costs of the Trident programme start to swell.

The new departmental select committees were created by the last Parliament as a shooing weapon for MPs to use to prod ministers and Whitehall. But they expired at the election and there was a six-month delay before they were reconstituted this week.

There are signs that ministers and those who advise them think that the best time to hobble the committees is at the outset, by interfering with the choosing of members by the nominally independent Committee of Selection.

This time the fixing took some doing. At first the Committee of Selection, striving to meet its obligations to reflect the balance of parties in the House, nominated seven Conservatives and four Opposition MPs. Atkins was nobody's first choice.

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the Downing Street favourite, tried to induce the Labour men to vote for him, but had dusty answers. Cox, exercising his own patronage, had his own candidates for the chairs of other select committees which, by agreement with Wakeham, were to go to Labour.

Wakeham was active on another front. He sent an emissary to James Molyneux, leader of the Official Unionists, who was aggrieved that his party had no member on any committee. An understanding was reached that Conservative votes would be used to take the Social Democrat, John Carwright, off the committee and put on the Ulster Unionist, Ken Maginnis, instead.

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and Marshall. Leaving Atkins aside, they tried again and split 2-2. The loss of a coin between Mates and Marshall was suggested but rejected. It was the only way Atkins could have been stopped.

On Thursday night the whips worked again on Marshall and Mates in turn. They were pitted with whisky and urged not to rock the boat. There was a promise that Atkins would go to the House of Lords as soon as the Prime Minister thought it safe to hold a by-election in his Spelthorne seat.

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Should we then ban News at Ten?

David Hewson

Parliament rarely looks its best when duty demands that it dictate what people see and hear. In evidence, I submit the following exchange, from the third sitting of the Standing Committee C on the Video Recordings Bill:

Mr Graham Bright (Luton, South): "There would be considerable scope for argument as to how far [an amendment which would replace 'animal' with 'sentient being'] would extend down the animal kingdom, and even whether it would extend to plant life. I am advised, for example, that an amoeba might be considered to be sentient on the grounds that it would move away from noxious chemicals..."

Mr Robert McLeannan (Cathness and Sutherland): "Will the hon. gentleman explain why he thinks that exposure to the force of gravity could possibly be described as 'mutilation, torture or other acts of gross violence'?"

Mr Bright: "There is an element of force that is unnatural if one turns a plant upside down."

And elsewhere. Mr McLeannan: "The second purpose of the amendment is to make it clear beyond doubt... that the exclusion is not intended to apply to violent acts of nature whose victims are not sentient beings."

Standing Committee C is not, so far as it can be ascertained, some elaborate joke being perpetrated by Mr Tom Stoppard, or a festive attempt at a Westminster pantomime.

Yet something very odd is clearly happening when a serious, and, in most quarters, welcome attempt to ban the video nasty suddenly turns into a debate on cruelty to amoebas and beastliness to plants.

There would be no "mutilation, torture or other acts of gross violence" between animals, consenting or otherwise. One presumes that this would not be communicated to the beasis of hush and jungle, but only to the film-makers who would no longer be permitted to document their behaviour until Leo turned vegetarian.

Naturally, if this discreet veil is to

be drawn over the cruelty of animals to one another, it will also be extended to homo sapiens. Attractive as this may seem, there are one or two problems. The most important is that, whatever Standing Committee C may decree, human beings undoubtedly are cruel to one another on a regular basis, as any news bulletin shows.

On the present basis, anyone could be open to prosecution for taping a suitable edition of the television news, the content of which is controlled under different regulations, and then offering it for sale as a home video. ITN's video about the Falklands campaign, which depicts some horrifying wounds, might attract criminal prosecution for containing the very material which had been shown on peak-time television to millions.

Once one steps from fact to fiction, the banned list grows ever longer. What, for instance, would one make of the blinding of Gloucester or Oedipus? Who would ever again be allowed to dramatize our best example of "mutilation, torture or other acts of gross violence", enacted on Good Friday?

This may not be the intention of most of those concerned with the Bill, but intentions do not always match their mark. One of the great failings of a legislative approach to deciding what is aesthetically good or bad is that it depends on the notion that such judgments can be made with the certainty of, say, charting the ocean.

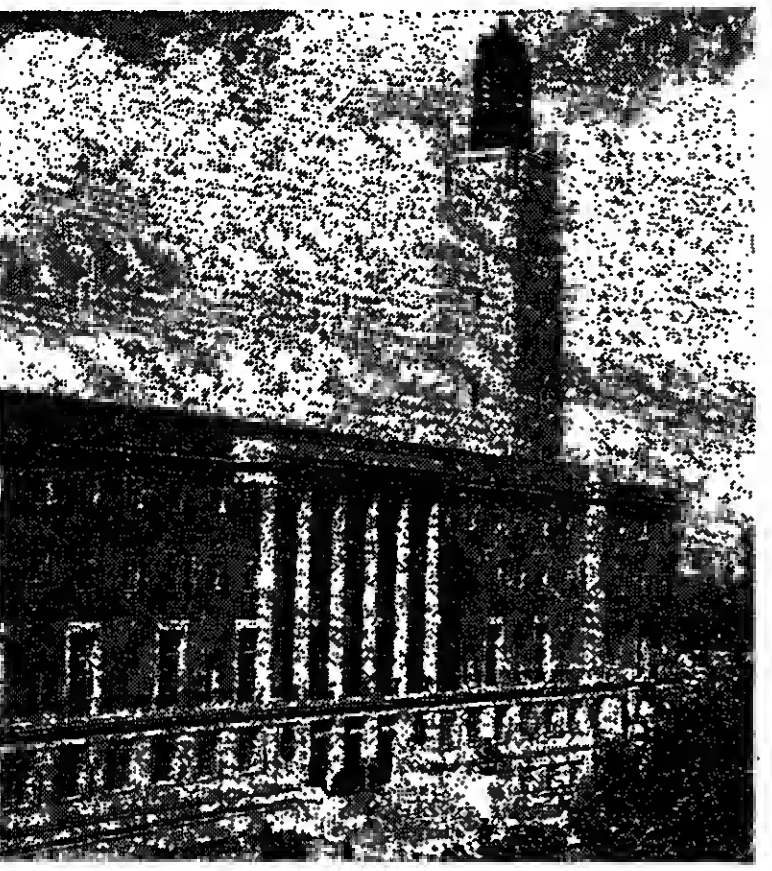
As Mr Matthew Parris MP has pointed out to the committee: "If we were to try to remove from literature those things which might have a bad effect on immature and maladjusted adults, who knows where that might end? Many British people have seen fist fighting, and that is the main reason why it is so greatly disliked... the turning of the tide of American public opinion on the Vietnam war was when newsreel pictures were shown of little Vietnamese children running away from American soldiers with their backs on fire because of napalm. Showing people things can make them change their minds about them, not make them want to copy them."

"I do not say that people should be shown everything; there are some things which they should not see. But the committee should remember that merely because something is unpleasant and we do not believe it should happen is not sufficient reason for thinking it should not appear on video."

Or on television or the cinema screen, for that matter, for those are surely the next targets if a new and more restrictive code can find its way into the private home. A law to ban genuine video nasties will command popular support. One which attempts to define good taste, morally as well as legally, will fail. It may be an uncomfortable truth but the acceptable can only be defined in reverse; the unacceptable needs to exist and, on occasion, proclaim its existence to enable us to draw the line.

Demolishing the Thirties myth

Sir John Summerson, curator of John Soane's Museum, looks in vain for fine Thirties architecture



Norwich City Hall: the best of an era?

Now that I come to look calmly at the architecture of the 1930s, how does the decade strike me? I am sorry to say that it strikes me very much as it did then, and at the Thirties Exhibition at the Hayward Gallery a few years ago; as a decade lacking in vigour of invention or refinement of style.

Indeed it had no style. The Gothic of Scott and Classic of Lutyens and Curtis Green had their roots in the world of pre-1914. Perhaps the decorative, quasi-modern style of Oliver Hill is as near as you get to anything coherently and intrinsically "Thirties".

What was wrong with the Thirties? It was a period of transition, and was very self-conscious about this fact. "We live in an age of transition" was a recurrent theme of after-dinner speeches. The clever answer to this was, of course, that all ages are ages of transition.

Two buildings come to mind which have lately attracted much attention, and which expose the schizophrenic fissions of the Thirties: Battersea Power Station and the Firestone factory. The power station is an engineering structure of some nobility, which has been artistically modelled by a cathedral architect.

Art Deco paraphrase of Burnet's Brutus Museum exercise a sort of voyeurism? I think that must be the answer, and I do not know what to make of it.

I would not shed a tear for Battersea Power Station. I suppose it is a fine brick mass, but those four belching columns at the four corners, pulling it apart, as it were, are to me really painful. Archer tried this game at St John's in Smith Square. It didn't work, and then church came to be called Queen Anne's footstool. It works even less at Battersea - Gavin Stamp's billiard table.

I suppose this may be dismissed as a "subjective judgement". As a product of its time - at no other time could such a thing possibly have been erected, Battersea Power

station is, of course, interesting. So, for that matter, is the new power factory and the Granada Cinema at Tooting. I despised them all when I was on the Architect and Building News, but I can't deny that they represent significant facets of the Thirties world.

If to bring lost worlds into focus is the purpose of preservation, then to preserve these things is perhaps right. If it is to preserve funny old things just for the hell of it, and for the entertainment of all and sundry, there is perhaps an even more complete logical justification. The test is "Are they funny enough?" (another case of "subjective judgement").

The detachment of a decade for special adulation is a curious modern habit which started, I suppose, with Holbrook Jackson's book of 1913 on the 1890s. The nineties really had got something; not only Wilde, Max Beerholm, the Beggars' Club, Beardsley and the 'Yellow Book', they had the young Lutyens and C. R. Mackintosh. In other fields, of course, the Thirties had Moore, Nicholson, Hepworth, Auden, Bejeman. But in architecture, who? The question is embarrassing.

I wrote an introduction for Trevor Dannatt's Modern Architecture in Britain, published in 1959. The first sentence reads: "It seems natural, writing about the past 30 years of English architecture, to write as if the only things worth bothering about were the local initiatives, progress and achievements of the 'modern movement'."

Look at the pictures in Dannatt's book - all those concrete and glass rectangles assembled, divided and subdivided, recessed and modulated, with more invention and variety than you would think possible - they do constitute a rather monumental performance. The pent-up energies of the war years were released and the Fifities was the decade of the British modern: something really arrived. Now it is in the dustbin, he says, and these days a Fifities Society will be called for.

A shortened version of a lecture given to the Thirties Society this week.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Once upon a time it was the artist who suffered - now it's us

If Anton Webern were alive today (which thank the Lord he's not, sir) he would be 100; set off by the century, his music has been raging through Europe like influenza, and many of the victims have developed hideous secondary symptoms in the form of angst, Stockholm and even Varese. Prognosis in most cases is grave, and where Boulez and Schoenberg have set in, little hope can remain: at the Barbican on Tuesday, for instance, the Vienna Philharmonic under Mehta were unable to fill the hall, despite the fact that the second half of the concert consisted of the Schubert C Major Symphony, a marvellously sonorous and exciting performance, incidentally, because the first half was devoted entirely to Webern. [The one thing that can be said in favour of Webern is that his works are mercifully short; each of the Five Orchestral Pieces, for instance, consists of not much more than three plinks and a plonk, and even the Six Orchestral Pieces, which figured in Tuesday's programme and are massive structures by comparison, were all over in less than 10 minutes the lot, with an average for each item of five plinks, two plonks and a grrrrr.]

We can, I think, safely take it that no man in his senses wants to listen to this stuff or enjoys it when he does so; some think they ought to listen to it, but even the writer of Tuesday's programme-notes (... shook off the last trappings of tonality... skeletal thematization... revolutionary compression... steadily accelerating to a catastrophic disintegration...) made it sound as though the First Principle of Medicine - the nastier it tastes the more good it is doing you - was being applied. So what was it doing up front in the concert, making us wait three-quarters of an hour for Schubert?

Why is random art - paint flung from radio atmospherics, novels published loose-leafed to be shuffled before reading - such nonsense? Do you suppose that Shakespeare didn't know that the world could fly apart at any moment, and that the Wars of the Roses had ended only 80 years before he was born? Do you imagine that Rembrandt, because he lived in Holland, had never heard of the Massacre of St Bartholomew, only 34 years before he was born? Do you think that Bach would have enjoyed himself if Charles XII had come to tea? Do you believe that Dostoevsky thought life was a bowl of cherries? Of course such artists knew that they had to assimilate suffering and refine it into their art, that they had to face ugliness before they could conceive beauty, that the ice of the world is eternally thin, and will always creak and groan and roar in travail as the artist tiptoes his way across it.

But that is why art is centripetal, and the artist's duty to keep it so. Art is the integument that binds humankind, truth and beauty together, and it is able to serve that purpose because, and only because, it can keep simultaneously in view the lesser truth that the world can fall to pieces at any moment and the greater truth that it will not.

The ugliness, and - much more significant - the triviality, of so much of modern art is a reflection of the fact that so many artists have ceased to be capable of that dual vision, and that some deny that the duality exists at all, or even maintain that the only truth about the universe is that it is charged and primed with disintegration. (What was it that led to the present danger of nuclear annihilation if not the

splinting of the atom, that ultimate, hideous, unforgivable impicity of putting a sounder that which God had joined together?)

This is the mistake of the false prophets, who strive ceaselessly (but, happily, in vain) to lead the common people astray. I am myself one of the common people, and it is on their behalf and at their unanimous request that I am speaking today, just as on Tuesday night I acted as their representative when, while listening to the Webern, I made a face as if one who has just swallowed a quince, and waited patiently until Schubert arrived with his great hymn to wholeness - a wholeness so complete that it can even encompass fragmentation, just as the Fifth Symphony of Beethoven is a hymn to the light so overwhelming that it even contains darkness.

Atonality was the great barrier reef on which modern music shattered, as the stream-of-consciousness was the torpedo that sank the novel and abstraction the anaesthetic that put painting to sleep. But these things are not just techniques; they are a direct consequence of the sickness in the artist's soul, a sickness which denies the duty which he previously shouldered uncomplainingly from Giotto to Picasso, from Monteverdi to Britten, from Rabelais (or Homer if you like) to Thomas Mann, from Aeschylus to Chekhov. All life, and therefore all art, strives towards harmony. Why does a playwright like Stoppard, a novelist like Naipaul, a painter like Matis, stand out so tremendously today? Because artists like these do today the artist's duty - they face the void without flinching, to declare that the world will yet be saved, and to weave their single strand of the great rope made of form and meaning equally - that holds the universe together. And I know this: another century hence, no one will think of celebrating Webern's bicentenary, because he will be utterly forgotten. But the C Major Symphony of Schubert will still be as fresh, as glorious, and as true as ever.

Christmas is one of those occasions when even the most run-of-the-mill households pause and attempt to essay one of the arts of living, table-laying. Recently Lady Clark told me how, when she was busy in the kitchen preparing lunch, her husband would go out into the garden in search of the "bouquet" for the table. "Please remember not to pick those two irises," she would ask, but he always did, reflecting exactly his appreciation of the aesthetic of the table.

There is a marvellous museum in Stockholm which exhibits the history of table-laying. Down a darkened corridor the visitor goes past room after room in period style: one a ladies' dinner held in a bedroom by a roaring fire, as in the engraving by Abraham Bosse, another evoking the naughtiness of the ancien regime with Sevres porcelain arranged for a meal a deux at a table whose cloth trails to the ground, knotted at the corners. What art the consumption of food has evoked - but always mosaic pieces to be rearranged and reset to capture mood and ambience, from banquet to buffet.

My recollections of memorable tables would form an eccentric list. It would not be particularly governed by splendour at all. It would include a humble lunch of cold meat and salad with Duncan Grant at Charleston. The painted wood table, the pottery, even the food was pure Omega workshops. John Piper's honest scrubbed wood table at Fawley matches it in another way, for from the centre arises a bank of white pottery candlesticks, all sorts and sizes, with cascades of dripping white wax.

Artists' tables are always interesting as they naturally approach them as a form of still life. No reminiscence of memorable tables can exclude grand ones however. So many of these are a legendary ton of antique silver is not necessarily beautiful. The Royal Academy dinner is positively mistle when it might be a visual feast. It might be applied a remark made to my wife, a short time ago at another grand table. Looking at the explosion of "all-the-year-round chrysalis mums" in the middle, her neighbour commented: "I assume that these will be sent to Golders Green immediately after."

A static banquet at Buckingham Palace provides one of the last glimpses of table-laying in the grand manner. The menu lists the glorious porcelain from which the guests eat, and little cards reveal the antiquity of the vista of candelabra and cypresses that stretch in each direction. On that occasion cacciatore di alicornio, the malarious delicacy of whoever orchestrated this spectacle. How different magnificence and complementarity to a luncheon by an American millionaire, where the museum accession numbers on the plates were noticeable. Nothing like eating off your tax concessions.

Eating is a wonderful vehicle for looking and not only at flowers and artefacts from the past. Modern ceramic sculpture produces delightful pieces to enliven a table. Bryan Newman's evocation of old London Bridge and John Gandy's garden well topped by urns and pots are a few of the endless pleasures. One of the sad aspects of the dining table at 10 Downing Street is the total absence of any contemporary ceramics or silver. There table-laying ought to be celebration of this country's past and present creativity.

The most memorable table I ever had to arrange was a luncheon party for the Queen Mother at Ham House. The table was placed as it would have been in Catherine of Braganza's bedroom, with the Royal visitor sitting so that the garden's lines of perspective met in her eyes. I regret to say that a colleague's bed was despoiled of its lace counterpane, and statuettes of the seasons were ferried down from the V & A, for the occasion.

In contrast the most memorable visual surprise I ever had laid before me was by Lord Eccles, who had commissioned Vanessa Bell to decorate a dessert service with scenes from Virginia Woolf's Orlando. He saw that I was served with the "Elizabethan lady", and my wife with "the man in the large black hat". Such is the stage-management of table-laying. It is above all an exercise in the art of looking, and a means whereby even the humblest meal is made unforgettable.

Sir Roy Strong is director of the Victoria & Albert Museum.



BARRY FANTONI

"What you think Luigi - maybe it's witchcraft?"

Simon Barnes

كندا من الأصل



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REHABILITATE, NOT DECAPITATE

A glimpse has now been offered of the arguments Mr Patrick Jenkin is using privately to secure for his rate capping Bill...

Mr Jenkin's second argument is that government must be able to rely on the cooperation of local authorities in the realization of its economic and social objectives...

When Parliament receives the measure it should grant a selective power of rate capping, provided the criteria are objectively defined...

CAVEAT TALPA

The first impulse of journalists over the affair of the Ministry of Defence leak is of respect and fellow-feeling towards The Guardian...

information received by The Guardian was in the distinct though growing category of material sent anonymously...

On that score, the "real evidence" is that member governments are generally well satisfied, and indeed recognize that the Commonwealth association is fortunate to be served by a number of men and women of outstanding talent and dedication...

CHARITABLE GIVING AND TAKING

New figures from the National Council for Voluntary Organizations show a noteworthy increase in the subventions from central government to voluntary and charitable bodies...

meanwhile, the British give money gifts to charity on a scale far surpassing Continental Europeans or other Westerners...

public money and concessions by the state on tax revenue. Charities enjoy tax and rating privileges; givers get some relief...

Accounting for the Commonwealth

From Professor Mike Faber. Sir, Others must also be wondering what induced you in your leader ("Called to account", December 2) to turn such heavy artillery of insinuation and innuendo against the Commonwealth Secretariat...

As to your idea that the post of secretary general external of the secretariat is a "definitely protected" by its holder "through the exercise of judicious patronage"...

The secretariat is a bureaucracy certainly, albeit a small one, and doubtless no bureaucracy is perfect...

CND's political bias

From Dr J. M. Lewis. Sir, Your leader (December 5) is mistaken in claiming that "at its conference last year CND decided not to advocate Britain's departure from Nato"...

Public relations in aid of Government

From Mr John Andrew. Sir, David Burnside's article on the Conservative Government's need for public relations (December 9) makes sombre reading except as preparation for Orwell's projection for 1984...

India and slavery

From Mr M. Dubej. Sir, In an article entitled "Crisis time ahead for UN slavery group" by Caroline Moorehead (November 2) it has been alleged that India is among the countries "believed to be hostile to the Working Group on Slavery of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities"...

Peace in our time?

From Mr Graham Greene, CBE. Sir, What short memories politicians have. Mr Heseltine says that it is because we retain our deterrent that "we have lived in peace for the longest period of contemporary history"...

Threat in El Salvador

From Mr Jack Shapiro. Sir, Sir Alfred Sherman's letter (December 12) detailing his experiences in El Salvador does not include the points made by your own correspondent today...

Disposal of rail archive

From Dr P. W. Lewis. Sir, What principles determine the continuing disposal of our national railway archive by British Railways Board (BRB)?...

Irish unity

From Mr John D. Taylor, MEP for Northern Ireland (Ulster Unionist) and MP for Strangford (Official Unionist). Sir, I was more than surprised to read the heading, "European MP calls for Irish unity"...

Blaming the computer

From Mr B. H. Parker. Sir, What is it about computers that encourages people to make irrational statements about them? Your headline, "Computer error blamed in Korean jet disaster" (December 9) is an example...

Uneminent and trivial

From Mr Kingsley Amis. Sir, Well, if you print a whole article where somebody complains about something somebody else might have said on a television programme, you will have to put up with a corrective letter on the matter...

Letters to the Editor

Various short letters and responses, including one from Philip Oakes regarding his autobiography and another from Kingsley Amis regarding a television programme.

COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 16: By command of The Queen...

Forthcomings

Mr J. S. Beck and Miss J. Bucknell The engagement is announced between...

Marriages

Wing Commander A. N. Wise and Miss J. A. Allogott The Queen, Prince Andrew and Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones were present...

Queen Ethelburga's School, Harrogate

Cartier advertisement featuring a watch and the text 'le mu de Cartier boutique HARVEY NICHOLS, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, LONDON SW3'

Kenneth Leech Karl Marx and the Carmelite

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of Alison Peers' English translation of the works of St John of the Cross...



Crowning glory: Judy Ljermore, the Commonwealth Games heptathlon silver medalist, and Neil Adams, a former world judo champion...

Memorial service Services tomorrow

The Hon Denis Gomer Berry A memorial service for the Hon Denis Gomer Berry was held yesterday at the Grand Priory Church...

Science report Unravelling the body's sugar code

Three broad classes of organic molecule are now known to control the activities of living cells. Two, proteins and nucleic acids, have been studied so intensively that scientists understand their structures and main functions...

OBITUARY MR DAVID MARKHAM Actor and campaigner for Soviet dissidents

Mr David Markham, the actor, who died on December 15 at the age of 70, was an active campaigner on behalf of civil rights dissidents in the Soviet Union and in other countries of the Soviet empire...

Birthdays

TODAY: Dame Mary Cartwright, 83; Mr Christopher Cazenove, 38; Lord Glenamara, 71; Dame Elizabeth Hoyer-Millar, 73; Lord Mander, 73; Lord John McNeill, 96; Lord Meston, 88; Major-General Sir Robert Neville, 87; Sir Hugh Norman-Walker, 67; Mr Peter Paquer, 46; Mr J. Murray Prain, 81; Mr Robert Robinson, 56; Mr Tommy Steele, 67; Professor W. A. C. Stewart, 68; Sir Lance-Townsend, 71.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr Alan A. McMillan to be solicitor, Scottish Office, in succession to Mr David Cunningham, who is retiring in February.

Dinners

Earl of Cranbrook The Earl of Cranbrook, president of the British Herpetological Society, will be chairman of the Christmas dinner (named after the founding president) held last night at the House of Lords.

Luncheon

A luncheon of the Master's Club was held on Tuesday yesterday. The Master, Mr A. G. O'Leary, presided and the principal guests were the Lord Mayor of Bristol and the Master of the Society of Merchant Venturers, Mr John Muckle, who was installed as the new Master.

Latest wills

Latest estates include (net, before tax paid): Mr Horace of Birtou, Buckinghamshire, £41,841; Mr Alfred Solomon, of West Hill, Hightgate, London, £472,883.

MISS DOROTHY BATLEY

Miss Dorothy Batley, who was 81, was a London actress who had been on the stage since she was six when she played Little Willie in East Lynne.

SUNDER KABADI

Sunder Kabadi, the doyen of Commonwealth correspondence, has died in London aged 85. Born in Bombay he came to Britain for the first Round Table conference in 1931 and during his long career was correspondent for the Indian Express, the Navin Times, Amrita Bazaar Patrika, and the Sydney Daily Mirror.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'The Times' and other publication details.

12, 13 Travel: For Ever England in California and aloha Hawaii, Italian skiing, Wiltshire style; Drink; Collecting: Wax works

14 Values: Presents with a future, decorations to make the table a treat; In the Garden: Times project progress report

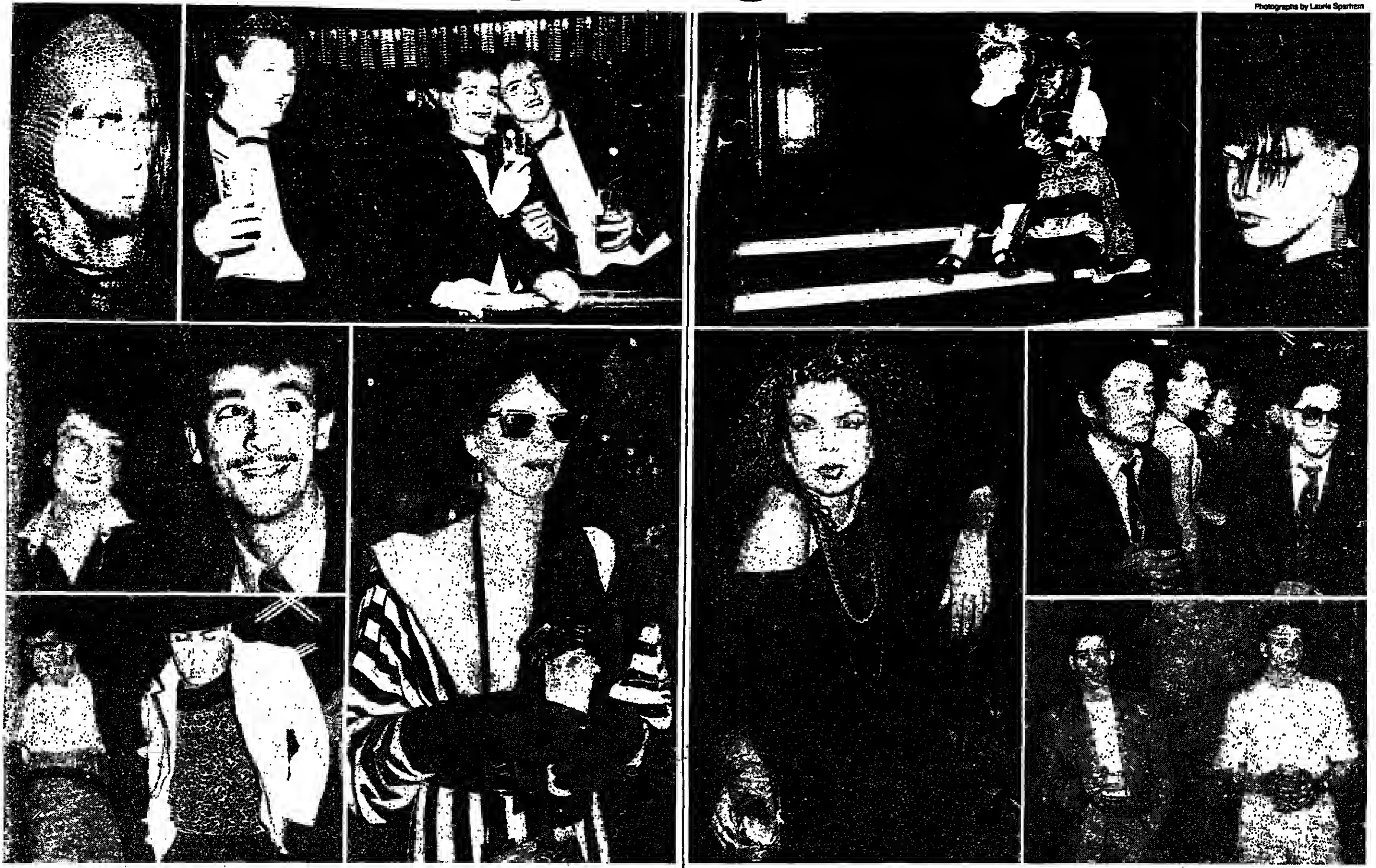
THE TIMES Saturday

15 Review: Video cassettes; Theatre: Tommy Trinder is back in Aladdin; Preview: Critics' Choice of Theatre, Galleries and Dance

17, 18 Preview: Films, Music, Films on TV and Opera; Prize concise crossword; Chess; Bridge; Family Life; and The Week Ahead

17-23 DECEMBER 1983 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Tripping the night fantastic



Photographs by Laurie Spierman

Who cares about the depression? Not the hedonistic youngsters who are flocking to the new kind of big city nightclubs. Max Bell gets caught in the rush

Swinging London is back. The opening last month of the Hippodrome, a £3m pleasure palace, and the seasonal exigencies have reinforced the belief that the recession can be forgotten. There is a new desire to see and be seen in the brash and expensive hedonistic havens of the city's night life.

heavily guarded doors six nights a week. They come to Slum It In Style on Tuesdays or luxuriate in Helden on Thursdays. For a few hours metropolitan youth can assume an heroic status, rub shoulders with the stars and indulge in a glittering, noisy fantasy.

Patsy and Delia, both aged 18, arrive at 10pm and intend to stay until the end. They like the pina colada cocktails and will spend about £30 each before taking a taxi all the way home to Biggin Hill in Kent.

Happiest at the Hippodrome: Late-night revellers include the "Gruesome Threesome", Guardsmen Tony, Merv and Mal (top)

Sitting pretty at the Camden Palace: Some of the faces who have brought a touch of glamour to the wilds of north-west London

community. It was out of the closet and into the eyes of the world. One club which perhaps sparked off this wave of narcissistic yet proselytizing display was Heaveo, the gay club situated underneath the arches near Charing Cross station.

At Heaven David Inches promised: "There'll be lots and lots of snow, £500 worth." But the hippest new club in London, the Circus, has no special seasonal plans.

Buckingham Palace - the ultimate coup de theatre. The Circus may soon be symptomatic of a new breed of cheaper club with £1 admission and £1 drinks.

Advertisement for Angostura aromatic bitters. Features a large illustration of a man in a hat holding a glass of drink. Text: "Coaster would be all at sea without it. No.8 COASTER in a series. 1 part Club Soda, 2 dashes ANGOSTURA. Add ice and stir. ANGOSTURA aromatic bitters. Put a dash in your cocktails tonight."



Clubmen: Hosts Peter Stringfellow (left) and Steve Strange

THE HIPPODROME, corner of Charing Cross Road and Cranbourne Street, London WC2 (437 4311) Doors open 9pm-3am. Licensed until 2am (New Year's Eve 3am). Food in the Gallery Restaurant, minimum charge £4 a person. Wine from £4.75. Club entry £3-£4. Lager £1.20, cocktails from £2.50. Live music, disco, personal appearances, videos.

DOORS OPEN 10pm-3am. Licensed until 3am, except Sunday 11.30pm. Food in Heaven restaurant, main dishes about £1.60. House wine £4.80, pint lager £1, house drinks on Wednesday until midnight 50p. Spirits with mixer £1. Club entry from 50p Wednesdays for UB40s to £3.50 Saturdays. Some union card concessions, check with club for details. Live music, personal appearances, videos, disco.

BLUE NOTE CLUB, 14a Sadler Gate, Derby (0332 42569) Doors open 9pm-2am. Fast food from £1 in the Diner. House wine £4.50, Red Stripe lager £1.10, spirits with mixer £1.05, cocktails from £2. Club entry £1.50-£2.50. Live music, special nights, videos.

THE HACIENDA, 11-13 Whitworth Street West, Manchester (061 236 5081) Doors open 9pm-2am. Food from £1, lager 80p, cocktails from £2. Club entry £1-£3.50. Live music, self-defence classes, videos.

HEAVEN (including Callar Bar), The Arches, Villars Street, London WC2 (839 3852)



To live in California is to inhabit a world of extremes. Michael Watkins gets to grips with the weird, appealing ways of the place where one day the kissing will have to stop

Cable cars and stars in the land of lunacy

Jessica Mitford flew out of San Francisco the day I flew in. I don't think there was anything personal in it: a question of imperfect timing, that's all. As I was checking into Nob Hill, she was doing much the same thing in London.

No, I wasn't being coy about Nob Hill; it's the address of the Mark Hopkins Hotel, from where you can watch fog steal in from the Pacific, obscuring Golden Gate Bridge in minutes.

"Everybody's Favourite City" is San Francisco's modest claim, coined, I believe, by Alistair Cooke. The song-writer takes up the refrain: someone left his heart in San Francisco, where little cable cars climb halfway to the stars. Someone else left his heart at Alcatraz, bleak and impregnable out there in the bay; his name was Al Capone. Usually you could hear the grinding lurch of those cable cars as they climbed vertiginously from Powell and Market Streets; but this time they were stilled, the system being overhauled for the first time in history - so everyone walked, breathlessly, rapturously, in this breathless, rapturous city.

In my room, I spread out the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Ernie's Restaurant on Montgomery Street was still going, and Laureo Bacall was still going too, starring in *Woman of the Year* at the Golden Gate Theatre. Theo I noticed that Rosemary Clooney was opening that evening, a supper show at the Fairmont; and because, at 11, I was unrequitedly in love with Miss Clooney, I booked a table.

Today Miss Clooney is a grandmother, wholesome as a wheatgrass loaf, and she belted out "Come on - My House", and she caressed a foggy day in Loodoo town and I loved her

all over again. I told her so. That was after the show, in her suite. "This is a civilized city", she told me. "More European than anywhere in the States, they care about food, clothes, style. They care about caring."

I don't know exactly what caring about caring means. It is one of those meaningless Americanisms like "meaningful", or "have a nice day". Everyone keeps telling you to have a nice day; even empty elevators are programmed to wish you a nice day.

Next morning I went for a walk through Ghirardelli Square to Fisherman's Wharf, where a girl, far too glamorous to be in the hallelujah business, asked, "You wanna be saved, brother?"

There are lots of kooky girls in the Cannery. They are interested in yoga, vegetarianism, cyto-genetics; and they will all turn into little old ladies in tennis shoes. Yet they are tolerated, venerated even; for San Francisco is a most forgiving city; the blacks forgive the whites who forgive the gays who forgive the heterosexuals who forgive the Jews who forgive the gays. Bald is beautiful; and there are topless girls in bars watched gleefully by men with topless minds. Talk to a totally nude girl for \$11, I said on a sign, it seemed a friendly thing to do.

Remembering her book *Hans and Rebels*, I asked Jessica Mitford Treuhaff's husband, Bob, if she was still rebellious. "She likes to preserve the image of a rebel", he said. He also said that California has a very seductive element to the British; he should know, the Treuhaffs have lived in San Francisco since 1943 - why, in southern California alone, there are 375,000 expatriate Brits.

Resisting superlatives, San Francisco is one of my favourite cities because it climbs hills while other cities spread out. It encourages its immigrants to retain their ethnic differences while other places assimilate them. It rejoices in a public transport system as archaic as Stephenson's Rocket. It takes soundough breaks; and it is launching pad projecting you towards Big Sur and a road south.

Monterey comes first, 120 miles from San Francisco; still a fishing town despite the goocye things that happened to Sinatra a long time ago. I stayed the night there, eating clam chow-

der and abalone puffs at Rappa's on Old Fisherman's Wharf. The cabaret was terrific; a salty pride of sea-fions made oink-oinking barks at a pelican demonstrating that its beak could hold more than its belly can.

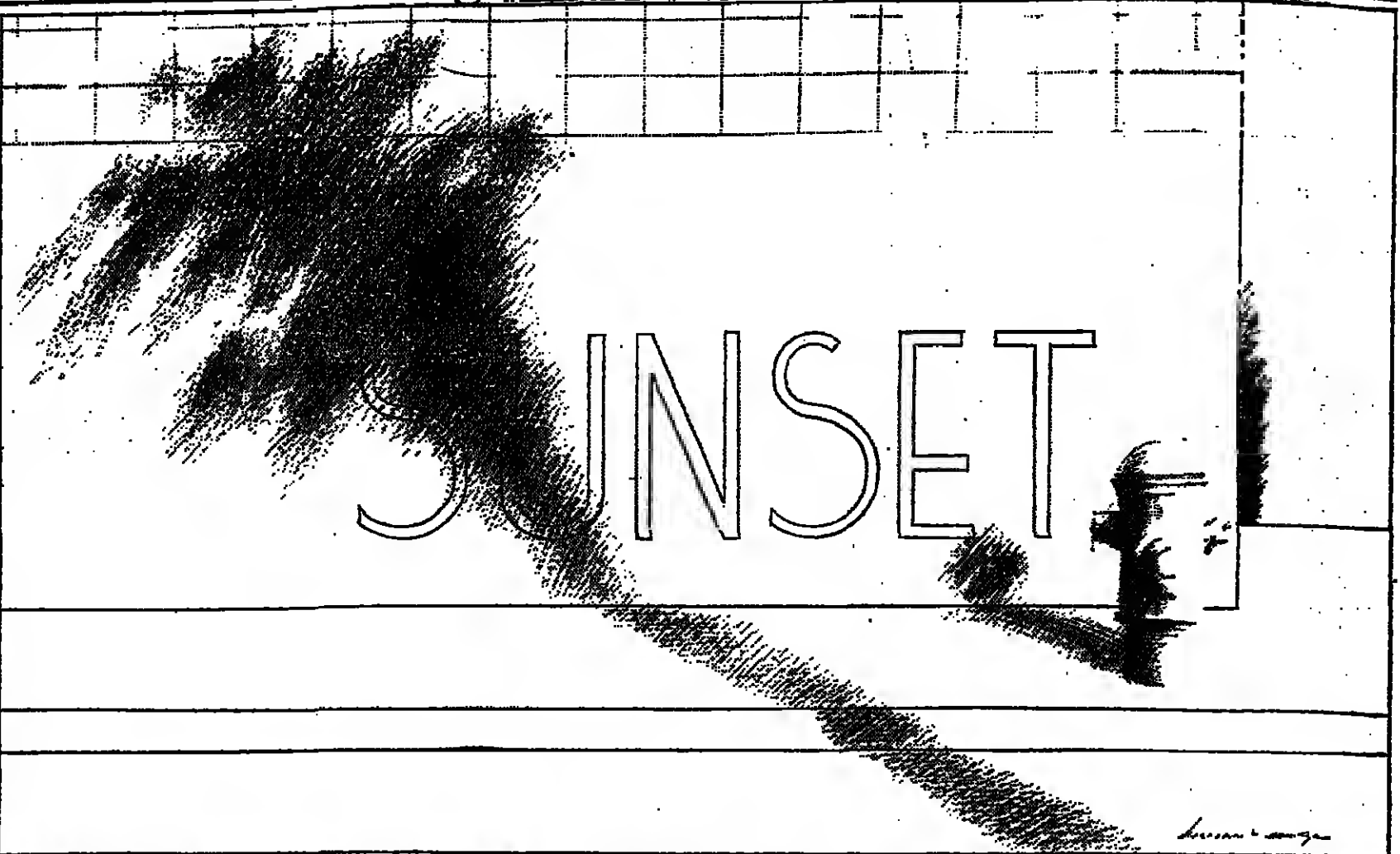
A storm had blocked the coastal road beyond Big Sur. So I made a labyrinthine detour, which took hours; but you can't board time at the expense of beauty - that would be like neglecting the Sistine Chapel because you had a bus to catch. You dare not take your eyes off this road, so perilous is it; yet you must. It is Cornwall through a magnifying glass, hugely cruel, elemental. It was shaped by a force more omnipotent even than William Randolph Hearst, who built a monument to himself, a shrine if you prefer, calling it La Cuesta Encantada, the Enchanted Hill - more brutally known as Hearst Castle.

'It is best to be anaesthetized'

Hearst, they say, was the model for Citizen Kane, who had a dark dream and constructed a monumental folly of another kind. Years ago I met a guide at the San Simeon castle who had been in service in Hearst's time. Her name was Milly; she had a face of almost serene vacancy and was possessed of a sealyham-type devotion for her master. Mr Hearst, she told me, was adorable; and there her case rested.

I could have made San Simeon to Los Angeles city limits that night, it's only 150 miles or so; but you need to steady yourself against the cultural shock waves of LA. Exposing yourself too suddenly could lead to brain damage. So, like a penitent on the eve of revelation, I sought refuge at Morro Bay, savouring stiff ocean breezes and stiffer draughts of Jack Daniels. It is best to be numb, to be anaesthetized; for, if San Francisco welcomes you elegantly, Los Angeles greets you with snarl, with trombones and a hundred trendy expletives. LA survives through one cardinal rule: to be "with-it". Without it is for the birds.

Los Angeles - indeed, every square inch of southern California - is mad, certifiably mad. And this palpable lunacy is



what, perversely no doubt, I like about the place. There is a dynamism in the air, a dynamism for freedom of expression; and if the formula contains lemming-like ingredients, then so be it.

There is a seismic certainty that California will detach itself from the American continent, drifting towards an even more enviable climate in the vicinity of Hawaii. And if the process is delayed too long, there is always the possibility that the Queen Mary, moored at Long Beach, could be commandeered as a towing agent. The future, you see, is insecure; one day the kissing will have to stop; if it's not Vietnam it will be Nicaragua, and if it's not Nicaragua some kid in Sacramento will bypass the computer circuit at the Pentagon.

There are 460 square miles of LA, every yard in perpetual motion, 50 suburbs in search of a city. Nothing is allowed to unwind, least of all people whom you imagine should be taking it easy by now. Like Christopher Isherwood, still perched above Santa Monica Canyon, I hadn't seen him in ages. He hasn't changed much, the same undimmed blue eyes, the same incorrigible gleam of a prep-school boy opening his neckbox. He hasn't grown much either: he's a bit over 5ft, but not much.

The timing was better than with Jessica Mitford. "I'm off to New York tomorrow", he announced. "To collect some award worth \$16,000 - not to be

sniffed at", he added, sniffing. Isherwood first came with Auden in the 1930s but Auden felt California was "stagnant", so moved to New York, leaving his friend at MGM Studios, in company with Dorothy Parker.

"I think I'm 79", he said vaguely. "But I know I'm Californian. They don't ask where you're from, as long as you're yourself. There are few taboos - all that's required is to be different, dig up an act, like being British. Anyway, I'm running out of kith and kin in England."

I left him on the "deck" of the house on Adelaide Drive. We had been admiring the sunset, Isherwood flapping his arms against his chest as if to ward off the frost of northern England that got to his bones those years ago. "You know", he said, "Sally Bowles was a real person." He looked like a satyr, jubilant, needing to surprise, yet wanting little else.

Certainly he wouldn't want a Rolls-Royce. I thought next day, "lunching" in Wilshire Boulevard with Anthony Thompson, President of Rolls-Royce Beverly Hills. Well, if Isherwood can do without a Rolls, there are 6,300 souls in the area to whom the vehicle is a necessity.

"It's a way of showing quite conspicuously that you've won your laurels", Thompson said. "There's a natural respect for wealth here."

That evening the fare was more frugal. Bangers and mash and John Courage beer at Ye Olde Kings' Head on Santa Monica Boulevard. I ate with John Gordon, the English publican, and a girl called Geri Jean. "The extremes are all here", said John. "And everything in between. Fads, cults, trends, all begin here. Everybody is clawing at being somebody, their 60 seconds of fame. They're all writers or actors, or out-of-work actors saying 'But I'm up for a great role'. There's a mass idiosyncrasy."

There is no identity crisis about the Queen Mary, aboard which I spent that night in a teak-paneled cabin, all art deco and foot-operated Shanks lavatories. She carried captains and kings, the Windors, Churchill, Laurel and Hardy, Coward and Dietrich, crossing the Atlantic

in three days, 20 hours and 42 minutes, using up 30,000 eggs during the passage. But California is looking after her; she sits proud at the Long Beach quay, every inch a lady.

'Compete or keep a low profile'

Again, I took the long way to Palm Springs, out of LA through Pasadena, into the Mojave Desert, through the San Bernardino Mountains. It used up the whole day instead of two hours. I did it as a kind of purifying rite; and to remind myself that California is crumpled with raw beauty as well as frocks, funky-dunks and weirdos. And anyway, Palm Springs is something else. Seeing is believing.

Buildings do not rise higher than palm-tree height, deferring to the eleventh commandment: "Thou shalt not cast a shadow over thy neighbour's swimming pool", of which, at last count, there was such a proliferation that you could swim every day for 14 years, two months and 15 days without using the same pool twice.

There are two choices in Palm Springs: compete or keep a low profile - very know, a closed mouth gathers no foot. The competition is strenuous: the Annenbergs, Fords, Bob Hope, Sinatra, Kirk Douglas, Patrick McNece. You'd have to join a country club of course; one like the Vintage, entrance fee \$40,000, provided you own a house on the property, upwards of half a million. You'd need to be seen as well, at charity benefits, such as the Temple Isaiah party, \$10,000 minimum a couple.

You would need a dress or two as well, and a ton of jewelry; and a ready line in witty gossip. "My dear, she's such a good housekeeper. Every time she gets divorced, she keeps the house."

They are even working on open-air conditioning, one restaurant, Las Casuelas, has it already. There is talk that entire streets will be air-conditioned, so that shopping for your essential Cartier, Hermès or groceries will be quite a treat in the 130°F summer temperatures. In Palm Springs, there is much concern with health, be pollen with royal jelly being

available on the supermarket shelves; bodies are being sensibly rejuvenated with spirulina plankton. Overnight octogenarians are turning into a seething mass of hormones.

I stayed with my old chum, Zukowaki, editor of *Palm Springs Life* magazine. "Let's play aphorisms", I suggested over a plateful of bean shorts. "How about living in Southern California guarantees the loss of a few IQ points a year?" she said. Seriously, on the surface, life here looks as easy as eating chocolate ice-cream. It's not. Like any place that extends a promise of instant fame and fortune, it's fraught with danger. The streets of Los Angeles, last frontier of the American dream, are paved with broken hearts.

Well, there's California for you, as meaningfully as I can manage. Polystyrene-wrapped and sanitized for your personal protection. God supplied this particular Big Apple, as rowy a fruit as in the whole orchard of Eden; it's just that Adam cultivated a few maggots.

Have a nice day.

Travel notes

New London-San Francisco-Los Angeles-London with Pan American Airways using the Pan Am Fly/Drive in conjunction with Alamo Rent-A-Car. The first-class return fare to either Los Angeles or San Francisco is £2226. The current Apex fare is £420.10 return. Pan Am's fly-drive deal includes a fare element of £400 (details in the new brochure). There is a free car rental scheme operating between Jan 1 and March 31, 1984. Telephone 01-409 0688 for details. The Mark Hopkins Hotel, San Francisco, double room European £26-£28; Hotel Queen Mary, Long Beach, outside staircases £50-£55; Winston Churchill suite £183-£316. On the road in the United States I invariably use Travelodge (part of THF Hotels) who offer middle-of-the-road excellence at budget prices, £22-£30 for a double room - telephone bookings in London 01-557 3444 or toll-free in the United States on 800 255 3050. For dining exclusively at Ernie's (or similar) in San Francisco, allow £50-£70 for two; but two can eat modestly for £17-£27 with Californian wine. Mileage of the described journey 1,300 miles.

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Watchful eyes: Sightseers look across the bay from Fisherman's Wharf to the bleak prison fortress of Alcatraz

Scotching the rumours about the Italians

As another ski season opens, those who keep their eyes on the popularity stakes will have noticed that Austria has once again replaced Italy as the top of the league and become the most favoured destination among British skiers.

This reversal is a little curious, for when it comes to sheer quantity and variety of skiing, Italy far outpaces Austria, where the skiing, for all its excellence, does tend to be very much of a piece. If there is an answer, other than that fashions change, it is probably that the Austrians are serious about skiing while the Italians are how can one put it - just a little laid back.

How much truth there is in this feeling is hard to establish, but it is certainly more than a nasty rumour put about by the envious to do the Italians down.

Last winter, we arrived in the resort of Santa Caterina, to find that although the resort was open, the pistes were still unspiced. Someone had borrowed the Piste Bully tractor to sharpen up some slope for a race. My lift ticket went into the electronic gate-slot all right, but it wouldn't come out again, and the idea of passing the morning tied by the neck to a turnstile isn't much of a turn-on.

I must say that our instructor was charming. With the amount of practice he put in he couldn't help but be charming. On the other hand, an hour's lesson which consisted of 10 minutes

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TRAVEL/2

Edited by Shous Crawford Poole

Aloha, hula and goodbye to an Hawaiian odyssey

By 4.30am on the first day the jet lag had won. Unable to sleep, I wandered out onto the terrace of my hotel bedroom and gazed out on Waikiki Beach, that most famous of Pacific resorts. Sixteen floors below the waves rolled in endlessly, I had imagined the surf would be enormous and the noise thunderous, but apparently this was the wrong season. All around the lights of the massive hotel and condominium blocks winked conspiratorially. As I stood breathing in the light sub-tropical night air, I found it hard to believe I was halfway round the world in the middle of the world's biggest ocean.

The journey to Hawaii had been horrendous despite the comforts of the 747. London to San Francisco - 10 hours 45 minutes, three hour stopover; then live and a half hours San Francisco to Honolulu. Add transfers and it's 24 hours door-to-door. And then there's the 12-hour time loss.

Somehow, the islands confirm your worst fears and answer your wildest dreams. Waikiki on the island of Oahu is smart, rich and expensive. The beachside hotels stretch endlessly along a surprisingly narrow strip of sand. Behind the main beach road lies a series of multi-storey shopping precincts selling anything from Carrier jewelry to native carvings and fast food. It is the American dream transported thousands of sea miles to a group of 20 volcanic islands and atolls, once inhabited by Polynesians who did not know the meaning of sin until American missionaries told them what it was.

Sight seeing begins on the beach. All around on that over-exposed strip, enormous whale-like Americans lie recumbent on the sun casting a shadow over slender Japanese neighbours. Gorgeous blondes, male and female, natural and dyed, soak up the ultra-violet. Tanning is a serious business here; outside many of the hotels there are Tanning Information Cent-

ers where earnest bronzed youths discuss which cream or lotion to use and how many hours of sun to take on the first day. All shades of colour and race are there. Hawaii claims to be the world's most poly-racial society.

Captain Cook started all that when he discovered the islands on January 18 1778. The careful people, far from being terrified, extended the treasonous aloha (literally an affectionate greeting) and welcomed the sailors with open arms. Cook became revered as a god and named the group the Saovohi Islands. A year later he got involved in a little local difficulty and lost his godlike status and his life in an extremely bloody scene on the beach near the now-famous Diamond Head.

Feast of exotic flora and fauna

The great captain left two legacies - trade links with the rest of the civilized world and syphilis, measles and other common ailments that reduced the islands' population from 300,000 in 1780 to 70,000 by 1851. Forty years after Captain Cook life changed again. The kilijoy American missionaries arrived and made the slanders wear clothes, abandon love, their religion and an idea of keeping the islands to themselves. Wave after wave of different nationalities, Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, Samoan, Korean, have subsequently contributed to the miscegenation of the Hawaiians.

Tearing myself away from gazing with instant awe in my heart at some of the more exotic creatures on the beach, I turned to the other attractions of Oahu. Beaches, tepid sea, ski diving, exotic flowers, trees and the American military allaboud. Pearl Harbor, home of the US Pacific Fleet and to USS Arizona Memorial, a moving tribute to the men killed on that infamous day when the Japa-

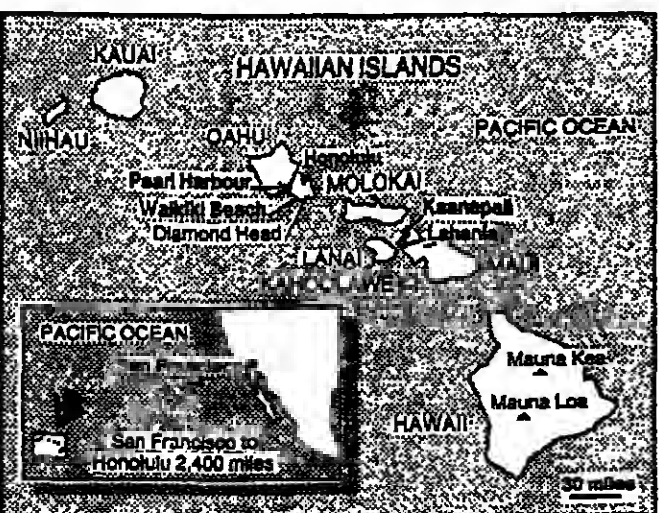
nese Zero fighters roared out of the sun to wreak havoc on an unsuspecting nation. The mandatory Chinatown (Soho's is far more interesting). Enticing cocktails and a friendly but ruthless determination to make you enjoy spending a lot of money very quickly. And of course the incredibly erotic hula dancers.

Three nights later I was not sorry to leave Oahu and head on to some of the other islands. Being American the inter-island air services are fast and efficient. Kauai, the garden isle, has a far smaller population than Oahu (40,000 to 720,000) and despite the modern conveniences it begins to approach my idea of a Pacific island.

On again to Maui, second largest of the islands, created by two massive volcanoes providing spectacular scenery and beauty. I would like to come back here. The town of Lahaina, formerly the royal capital of Hawaii, has been restored and looks as it did 200 years ago when the whaling fleets of the world used it as a convenient and welcoming base. Clapboard houses line its main street, but the shops sell 25 varieties of burger or pizzas now.

The town is conveniently close to the very swish resort of Kaanapali. Luxurious beachside hotels which offer everything from art galleries to hairdressers to delicatessens and ice cream parlours have sprung up here in recent years. Enterprising architects have utilized the attractions of the jungle vegetation and built some of the lobbies around soaring palm trees, fragrant plumeria, frangipani, jacarandas and African tulip trees.

The food and drink in the hotels comes in two varieties - fast food and milk-shakes. American children of all ages love them, and French-Americans, familiar sounding, gourmet dishes which deceive the eye who served up as giant Texas steaks with a thick packet gravy on top. Steer clear of the French wines; like Europeans they



don't travel here well. The Californian produce, especially the Robert Mondavi wines, suit the atmosphere and ambience better.

The whole act is smart. The tourist is cosseted and protected from the outside world. The climate never seems to vary, never gets cold and the showers work every time! An obvious parallel can be drawn with the Caribbean. The weather, beaches and climate are similar but the underlying tension that persists on so many Caribbean islands is absent here. You are not advised to stick to the hotel grounds, and you don't come across hit-and-run security men keeping the population at bay. Even the prices are not too dissimilar. Perhaps the only drawback is the over-riding American efficiency of it all.

Refreshed and restored after two days in Maui, I continued my odyssey. Another short flight this time to the big island itself, Hawaii. If Maui provides the relaxation, the big island provides the spectacle. It was formed by five volcanoes of which two, Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea, are nearly 14,000ft high and still very active. They descend 18,000ft below the island to the seabed, making them the largest mountains on earth.

It is a curious feeling knowing this when landing on the island. With typical ingenuity and business acumen, the state has built a highway right up to the crater of Mauna Loa. The tourist buses stop outside an hotel and the Volcano Art

Center, a mere half a mile away from the massive crater. You can drive from the hotel, park and walk to within 12ft of the rim of the crater which is two miles across. One hundred and fifty feet down lies the hard-baked crust, the cork on top of a pipe of molten rock that stretches down to the earth's core. All around, sulphurous fumes leak from the hard black and grey lava rock. The air is still and fears of sudden, Promethean upheaval prey on the minds of even the most blasé travellers.

The guides assure you that the seismic activity is constantly monitored, the turbulent forces which exist just a few hundred feet below the ground but for once your confidence in American knowhow is strained.

Every time there is an eruption (the last one was on December 5) the road is covered by lava, so the engineers move it and build yet another bypass. Nothing must interrupt the flow of the tourist dollar.

After that peak the rest of the trip goes steadily downhill. Yes, the 2,000 varieties of the Hawaiian orchids are beautiful, and yes, it is the best pineapple you have ever tasted but the superlatives begin to pall.

Back to Oahu and the excesses of Waikiki Beach to speed the final night eating Japanese food.

After a long and tiring day with American beer. It was, after all, a cosmopolitan journey.

Michael Crozier



Hotels: On Waikiki beach, all doubles, no meals included, £40-£100 a night. Other hotels are cheaper, £25 and upwards; there are also guesthouses and simple log cabins which cost no more than £5 a night.

Food: From a 75p hamburger to a gourmet meal at £20 a head - including wine - it is roughly comparable to inner London.

Climate: Sunny and warm with temperatures ranging from 75°F in winter to 90°F in summer. The humidity (80 to 70 per cent) is tempered by the near constant trade winds.

Excursions: Many and varied.

Local phrases: "Hano hano" means to go out and is used at the end of nearly any statement; hano - white man; holo holo - to visit; imu - underground ovens for roasting pigs in for a luau - an Hawaiian feast; Kahuna - priest or doctor; kamae - member of the long-standing island family; hana - a man; kapu - keep out; lei - garland of flowers; mahalo - thank



Business as usual: Diamond Head looms behind the extraordinarily narrow strip of Waikiki beach

Manorial mystery with a happy twist

Who would have solved the murder of Castle Combe? Would it have been Miss Marple, invited, fortuitously, by some long-lost friend to stay in this suspiciously perfect limestone village in north Wiltshire? Or Hercule Poirot, called in by Battle of the Yards to pose as a guest at the manor house, where we ourselves were staying for the weekend?

The manor house, let me explain, is now a hotel and lies just a minute's walk from the market cross of Castle Combe, which has been called the prettiest village in England. The cross still bears the grooves where the medieval bowmen sharpened their arrows. There is a convivial village pub, a babbling village brook, the Byc and within the picturesque village church lies the thirteenth-century tomb of Sir Walter de Dunstanville, who built the castle, now defunct.

The hotel is mostly seventeenth and eighteenth century and with its oak-panelled walls and enormous open fireplace it is every inch the scene of a Christie crime - Styles, perhaps, or Chimmneys. In the lounge an Italian frieze 200 years old commemorates Shakespeare's Falstaff, who may have been based on Sir John Fastolf, Lord



Ideal setting: the picturesque village of Castle Combe

of Castle Combe and friend of Bolingbroke. There are circular staircases and beamed ceilings; and in the 26 acres of garden and parkland surrounding the house we joined the marriage and pheasants for a walk among hedgerows thick with old man's beard and white bryony.

It was a magnificent place to stay, but we had an ulterior motive for our visit. It was the night of the Alsatian Banquet.

Allow me to paint the scene in Dame Agatha's colours; the guests gathered in the dining hall with its flickering candles and huge landscape, sized one another; or Oliver Clegg, owner of the hotel, looking every inch the lord of the manor in his immaculate white dinner jacket, placing his guests with gentlemanly skill; and in the kitchen Marc Decker, the young Alsatian guest chef, putting the finishing touches to his salmon and scallop salad, tasting the sauce gremolata, flavouring with celery his oyster and mussel chowder, choosing his time....

Course after course we ate, each more succulent than the last. Snails in puff pastry with pimento, herbs and cream; a moussé of trout and crayfish; a sumptuous sorbet; lamb in fresh basil butter sauce. And of the five wines only the (excellent) Chateau-neuf-du-Pape was at all suspicious, for it alone did not come from Alsace.

For most, gluttony. For some, curiosity. But what of the flamboyant Dutchman buying doubles while his wife sat by the fire, silently reading her *Horae and Hours*? And when to make the overheard phrase: "There's evil at the heart of this village?" We spent the night in a four-poster bed and from our huge windows there were good English views next morning over manicured lawns and woodlands beyond. Coffee, the Sunday papers, breakfast and a five-mile hike set us up for an English lunch of which even Marc Decker, now released from his labours, approved.

There was no crime at Castle Combe that weekend, but I think we discovered its secret. The place, quite simply, has style. Peter Brown

Languedoc's legacy of little English pies

There are about 6,000 Pizenais, as the inhabitants of Pèzenas are called, and they are proud of their town. When Arnaud de Bourbon, Prince de Conti, viceroy of Languedoc, that seems to be going rather far, though they did have a bright young actor-manager there in those days, Molière. The courtyards of the gentlemen's houses in the Renaissance quarter make good open-air theatres.

The old part, going back to the Middle Ages, is almost unspoilt. The streets are too narrow for serious traffic, and one can spend a happy afternoon strolling around. A few arty-crafty shops have sprung up, open only to summer, but most of the tourists from Tokyo and Düsseldorf press on in their air-conditioned coaches to Carcassonne, that Disneyland of Viollet-le-Duc.

The main road goes through the nineteenth-century quarter, and the average motorist is surprised to see the hidden two-wheeled walk away. Until a few years ago drivers were more preoccupied with the famous Pèzenas traffic jam, which the inhabitants would bring out their chairs to watch - for this is the road to the Costa Brava. They have lost this source of amusement since the motorway was finished, so they turn their chairs the other way and watch the game of *tombourin*.

This is played on a 100yd-long car-park, and is a sort of five-side tennis without a net. The rackets are like big *tombourin* without bells. The solid rubber ball makes a most satisfying clonk when a master-player sends it high into the air. To France the game is played only in a 25-mile radius of Pèzenas, but some parts of Italy know it too, and every year there is an international match.

On the outskirts there are some agreeable châteaux. One of them, Loubatiers, was the favourite hunting-lodge on Nînon de Lenoles, that elegant pin-up of the seventeenth century. A later visitor was the

Cardinal de Bernis, known to readers of Casanova's memoirs as having been broad-minded about sharing the favours of beautiful nuns M, M, and C. C. in oighis of Venetian frolic.

Clive of India reputed another of these châteaux in 1766 for a spell of rest and recuperation, and - to come to the point - left his mark on Pèzenas in a strange and durable way.

There are a lot of pastry-shops in the town. In their windows, among the fruit tarts and éclairs, there are things that look like small pork pies. They are the shape of cotton-reels, about 2in high and an inch and a half in diameter, and are called *petits pâtés de Pèzenas*. They are meant to be eaten warm, at the beginning of a meal. The outside is made of hot-water raised-pie pastry. The filling is four parts soft brown sugar, two parts minced mutton, one part minceo suet, one part beef suet and some grated lemon peel.

Yes, it's the original English mince pie, somewhat simplified. Our 1891 Mrs Bestow wants you to include some lean beef, raisins, currants, candied peel and brandy. But she says that people are beginning to prefer a meatless pie, to be served as a pudding or for tea. Later editions only give the familiar decadent version, with no outrageous muttoo fat.

Milord Clive brought his own cook with him to the locals, and started a tradition. His little English pie, in 200 years, has not spread further afield than the *tombourin* district, where, however, it is difficult to avoid.

A good place, Pèzenas. As for its speciality, which left England two centuries ago to resurface in the pastry-shops of the Cours Jean-Jaures, the town's tourist leaflet can have the last word: "The taste of the *petits pâtés* will astound the gastro-tourist. They're dead right."

John P. Harris

The French Tourist Office is at 779 Piccadilly, London W1 (492 2448).

COLLECTING

Wax works thrown into relief

Taste changes mysteriously from year to year, decade to decade and century to century. One of the most significant movements present is a steady upward swing in appreciation of sculpture. Paintings, drawings and prints are still far more expensive than their three-dimensional counterparts, but the gap is beginning to narrow, and the trend seems to be affecting prices across the range of three-dimensional art, from Renaissance bronzes to Victorian sculpture, Rodio and Henry Moore.

One three-dimensional area which has so far been left almost entirely unnoticed by collectors is modelling in wax. A technique first used in ancient Egypt and popular in classical times, its flowering in Europe began with the Renaissance. Gentle Renaissance models still pass through the sale rooms at around £400 to £700, although exceptional examples can go to around £4,000.

In the eighteenth and early nineteenth century there was another great vogue for the medium, most especially for wax portraits in low or high relief. These are reminiscent of the silhouettes so popular at this period but are much more sophisticated and beautiful. They can be found at £20 to £30, while £300 or so should secure a fine one.

Three reference books (vital in steering a course through the

rocky seas of collecting) are available, all by Edward Pyke. First came the *Biographical Dictionary of Wax Modellers* (Oxford University Press, 1973). When Mr Pyke decided in 1981 to publish a supplement incorporating new discoveries, the OUP turned him down, so he published it himself. And this month he publishes a second supplement. It will cost £9.50 plus postage and is available from Mr Pyke, 53 Ladbrooke Road, London W11.

With charming candour Mr Pyke reveals to his publicity leaflet for this supplement the state of play on the other two volumes: the OUP are still left with 70 copies of the original dictionary; Mr Pyke himself is left with around half the 500 copies he had printed of the first supplement. After a slow start, the books could well turn into collectors' items themselves as the three-dimensional boom gets under way!

Mr Pyke has devoted his retirement to this work. (He retired in 1963 from the Royal National Institute for the Blind, where he had invented and developed braille "pighting"). He inherited a small collection of waxes from his father and has added to it himself. It currently decorates the walls of his sitting-room. The pieces are mainly small.

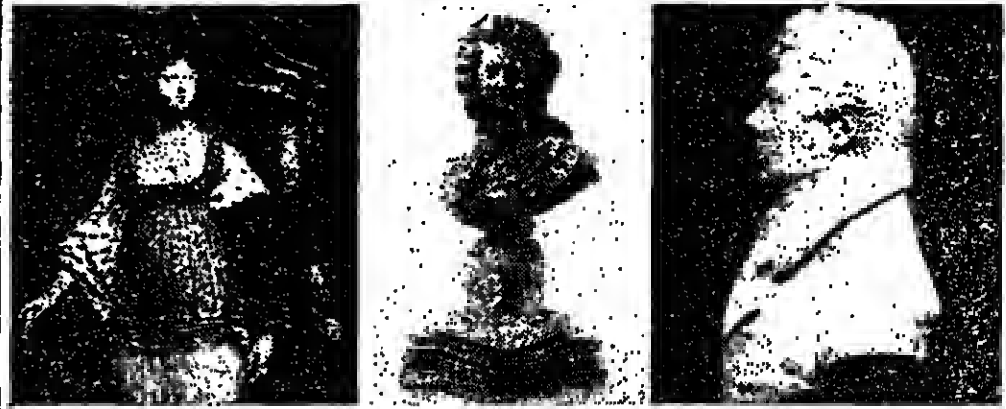
The star of the collection is by Samuel Percy (1750-1820), a three-quarter length portrait of

Princess Charlotte framed by a red wax curtain. Another is Isaac Gosset, who generally did head-and-tinted wax. Both were prolific and can be bought quite easily. The same goes for Caspar Hardy, of Cologne, who was their contemporary and modelled little genre scenes as well as portraits.

The most abundantly available of the Renaissance modelers is Antonio Abondio (1539-1591), an expert portraitist who worked for the Emperor Maximilian. Another Italian whose works can be found quite easily is Gaetano Zumbo (1656-1701), who worked in Bologna and specialized in rather grisly anatomical and religious scenes.

Sadly, the popularity of waxes at the turn of the century brought a good many fakes into existence, and it is wise to take advice before spending large sums. And don't hang them over the central heating, because wax melts.

Geraldine Norman



Heading for popularity: Percy's Princess Charlotte; bust by Lecomte; the Rev R. Aspland by Poole

DRINK

Potent Christmas survival kit

If you are filled with horror by the thought that this time next week you will be coping with a house full of over-excited children and difficult elderly relations in addition to making the mince pies, stuffing the turkey and wrapping up those last-minute Christmas presents, take heart. The one way to make certain that the festive fortnight passes by in a blissful blur is to lay in sufficient stocks of the perfect Christmas survival kit - wine.

It may be too late by now to persuade your local wine merchant to deliver, but the choice at your nearest off-licence or supermarket will still be sufficiently wide to cope with all those taxing festivities.

Everyone uses Christmas as an excuse to drop by unannounced on the simplest method of entertaining them is to ensure that your fridge and sideboard are already well-stocked with bottles. A screw-top bottle of the peachy, bonied Muscat de Beaumes de Venise (Sainsbury's £4.25) can be kept in the fridge throughout the holiday; a chilled glass served with mince pies either mid-morning or mid-afternoon always goes down well, especially with maiden aunts, the vicar and friends with sweet tooth.

For those with drier and more demanding tastes, a good bottle of any pungent, nutty, bone-dry Sercial such as Lomelino's Sercial is ideal (Russell & Wallace, The Rectory, St Mary at Hill, London EC3, £6.85); this fortified wine can also stay in the fridge for days without coming to any harm.

If space in your fridge is at a premium, try one of these Christmas sideboard standbys: Gonzalez Byass has an excellent old bottled sherry in their rich, sweet old Oloro - Matusalem - which is perfect with Christmas pudding or at tea-time with the cake if you are finding your relations especially hard work (La Vigneronne, 105 Old Brompton Road, London SW7, £5.60). Cherry brandy is another old favourite that warms everyone up after church and also makes a good warming noggin for carol singers and hunt-followers. (Oudbins, £4.70).

On the big day itself the quickest way of making Christmas feel like Christmas is to start with champagne. Sainsbury's flowery and full-bodied Dry Champagne (£5.95) came top in *The Times* recent champagne tasting and would make a splendid morning tipple. A cheap alternative would be to buy a bottle of Chateau de Fraises de Bois (Cullens £3.95) pour a teaspoonful into the bottom of each glass and top it up with the cheapest, driest, sparkling wine that you can get at your off-licence. It produces a delicious pale pink sparkling wine with a bouquet of wild strawberries.

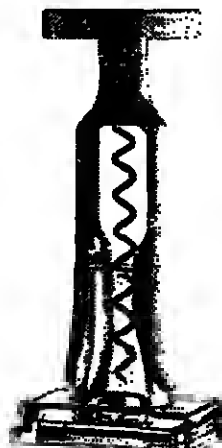


have the answer - a glorious, rich, green, buttery '81 Chablis from Rémy le Fort, a bargain at just £3.99.

It always seems rather a pity to serve good claret or burgundy with turkey: the meat itself is too difficult to match but few wines can survive the rigours of cranberry sauce, strong herb stuffings and the like. The Rhône is a good source of those robust red wines that can and

Jane MacQuitty

Herbert Allen perfected the corkscrew by inventing Screwpull



Wine connoisseur and president of one of America's biggest engineering companies, he put his brilliant brain to improving the corkscrew. The result is acclaimed the world over and because it is patented, it cannot be copied. Broken, crumbled and "awkward-to-pull" corks are now things of the past.

What the experts say - "The Screwpull comes closer to infallibility than any other device for extracting corks" TERRY ROBARDS, NEW YORK TIMES

"Once you have used the Screwpull you will never use another corkscrew" MICHAEL BROADBENT, CHRISTIES, LONDON

"Must be the best corkscrew invented this century" DEREK COOPER, OBSERVER MAGAZINE

"What wine lovers have been waiting 300 years for" PAUL MARKS, WINE TIDINGS, MONTREAL

"Absolutely idiot proof!" WILLIAM HALL, FINANCIAL TIMES

Screwpull AT 575s A GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS

FROM SELECTED BRANCHES OF HOUSES: HARRISON'S LTD, HARRISON'S, GTC SELF-DRIVEN, 12, DOWNEY STREET, W1 AND 8, LARGER BOOTLE BRANCHES WITH HOUSES AND TRAVEL WHITEHEADS COOKHOODS, AND MOST THE GOURMET BUTLERS. 100% STOCK LIST AVAILABLE FROM HITE LTD, 80, STICKLETON ROAD, LONDON W11, TEL: 01-275 8400

The Romance of the Metro - Lyn Macdonald

South Africa - Sun, Sea, Sand, Safari, Sightseeing Holidays

Getting there - The wings we drank were from the House of Doff and Iron, of Alsace, and were shipped by J. B. Rymier, of London. Marc Decker is employed by Doff and Iron.

REVIEW Video cassettes

Glimpses behind the mask of a master clown

For once we have a subject that video does proud. Not only are most of the best Chaplin films available on cassette...



Chaplin and his leading lady Cherrill: He fired and rehired her during the shooting of City Lights

Graphic designs on the birds and bees

Most aspects of life are already covered by video. So it may come as no surprise that you can now learn to hatch and match, though not, as yet, to dispatch.

Learning to Love with Marje Proops (60 mins) Video Space, £19.95. Having a Baby (108 mins) BBC Video, £24.95.

Diversions for the armchair critics

For ballet lovers video has one immediate attraction. The view from an armchair is a lot more comfortable and less obstructed than that from an orchestra stall.

Next week: Video round-up of 1983

PREVIEW Theatre

Man with the gravelly voice is back where he belongs

Tommy Trinder celebrates 62 years in show business by returning to the familiar world of pantomime in Aladdin at the Shaftesbury Theatre.

A couple of weeks ago, he returned to his stand-up comedian routine at the Royal Festival Hall during an evening in aid of the Police Benevolent Fund.

PREVIEW Galleries

RAOUL DUFY: Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (S26 3144). Until Feb 5, Mon-Wed 10am-6pm.

Dance

TWYLA THARP: Sadler's Wells (276 8816). Today and Mon - Thurs at 7.30pm. Casual-looking, individual, stimulatingly different dance works.

Critics' choice

PACK OF LIES: Lyric (437 3685). Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 8pm and 8.15pm; matinees Wed at 3pm.

Out of Town

"New" show using the songs of many composers to trace the history of the American musical. World premiere production, directed by Leslie Lawton.

PHOTOGRAPHY

NIGHT TRICK: Stella Gallery, 58 High Street, Edinburgh (031-657 1140). Until Jan 7, Tues-Sat 12.30-6pm.

RAIL IMAGES

Railway Photographic Society. The Old Station, 100 Strand, Bath (0225 62847). Wed until Feb 4, Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm.

Small text at the bottom of the page, likely a continuation of the 'Out of Town' section.

Advertisement for 'THE GENIUS OF VENICE 1500-1600' at the Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1, until 11 March 1984.

Advertisement for 'BACK ON STAGE! The legendary Fagin... RON MOODY... OLIVER!' at Aldwych Theatre, starting on 14th January.

Entertainments

What's new on the GLC South Bank?
GLC South Bank Concert Hall, South Bank, London SE1 8XX.

GROUP DISCOUNTS available for most Royal Festival and Queen Elizabeth Hall performances...

Royal Festival Hall
Open all day to everyone. Free lunchtime music.

GUIDED TOURS of the Royal Festival Hall. Daily at 12.45 pm and 3.30 pm.

WHERE TO EAT
If you are in search of food and drink you need not look far.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS
While there are no performances in the Royal Festival Hall on 22 and 23 December...

CAROLS ROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE
In the Royal Festival Hall between 6 pm and 7 pm each evening until Friday 12 December.

IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS
From the Royal Festival Hall, record and gift shops in the foyer on Level 2.

THE MUSIC BOX
Saturday 17 December: London Vintage Jazz Orchestra.

I LEONARDO
An exhibition of drawings and sketches by Ralph Steadman for his new and eccentric biography of Leonardo da Vinci.

DRAWN TO BALLET
An exhibition of drawings and lithographs by Zuzuki Roboz, arranged in association with the Exhibition Department of the Royal Festival Hall.

DAVID HOCKNEY POSTERS
An exhibition of a private collection of posters for galleries and the theatre.

THE SPIRIT OF LONDON
GLC Painting Exhibition. An exhibition of ten paintings in the foyer of other entries to the GLC annual competition.

CRAFT EVENT
On Saturday 17 December, Sunday 18 December and Monday 19 December. Demonstrations and sales of jewellery, herbs, floral art, glass, leatherwork, fabric collage, etc.

Purcell Room
Sunday 17 Dec 7.30 pm: MAORI DAVIDSON Island, Boat Songs and His Contemporaries.

Monday 18 Dec 2.45 pm: A CHRISTMAS BOX, MICHAEL AND DOREEN MURPHY present a 1944 programme of Festive and Christmas music.

Wednesday 21 Dec 7.30 pm: ALLAN SCHILLER, JOHN HUMPHREYS (solo and duo), MARGARET SIMON (solo and duo).

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
RAYMOND GIBNEY presents SUNDAY 17 JANUARY at 3.15 pm and 7.30 pm.

JOHANN STRAUSS GALA
JOHANN STRAUSS ORCHESTRA and DANCERS in Costume. Directed from the Violin by JACK ROTHSTEIN.

TCHAIKOVSKY EVENING
MARCHESLAVE SWAN LAKESUITE PIANO CONCERTO NO.1 NUTCRACKER SUITE.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
RAYMOND GIBNEY presents TUESDAY 10 JANUARY at 7.45 pm.

ELMAR OLIVEIRA violin
WALTER PONCE piano. Sonata No. 4 in D, Op. 80.

PURCELL ROOM
THE PARLOUR QUARTET. Min. Maureen Keech soprano, Min. Arovia Vernon alto, Richard Collins tenor, Jim Gossett bass.

Wigmore Hall
THE WIGMORE TRIANGLE CONCERT. William Bennett flute, Clifford Rowan piano.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL
ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY. Conductor: MEREDITH DAVIES. TODAY at 2.30 & 7.30.

TRADITIONAL FAMILY CAROL CONCERTS
JOHNNY MORRIS (Evenings) with DOUGLAS COOMBS.

ROLF HARRIS (Saturday Matinee only)
with BARRY BOUTH.

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER presents at the ROYAL ALBERT HALL
SATURDAY 31 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm.

VIENNESE NEW YEAR GALA
WITH LOTS OF SURPRISES!!! From the music by Strauss, Lohse, Suppe, Wolf.

SYMPHONY ON ICE
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. JOHN CURRY. Monday 3rd and 7th January.

St John's Smith Square
LONDON SW1P 2PA. Directed by Judith Anderson. Box Office: 01-222 1064.

BARBICAN HALL
Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2Y 8DS. 01-638 8891/01-628 8795.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
LONDON SW1P 2PA. Directed by Sir Charles Mackerras.

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LONDON SW1P 2PA. Directed by Sir Charles Mackerras.

Greater London Council
PURCELL ROOM Monday 18th December 1983 at 7.30 pm.

THEATRES
ADELPHI 01-256 7611. A. C. C. at 8.00 pm.

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Entertainments

John Piper

30 November-22 January



Piper is perhaps best known for his romantic landscape painting, but his work in stained glass, ceramics, fabrics and theatre design, now shown together for the first time, fully demonstrates his versatility.

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CINEMAS

GATE NOTTING HILL 221 0200/727 0700. John Cardus, James Mason in *A STAR IS BORN* (R) MAX 2.10, MAD MAX (B)

BANKSIDE GALLERY OPENS

Continued by the Royal Society of Painter-Etchers and Engravers on 20th Dec. The gallery is open from 10.30-5.30. Tel: 01-833 2211. 10-8, Wm 2-6, Admirer.

BRITISH LIBRARY 10, York St, W. 1. 10.30-5.30. Tel: 01-833 2211. 10-8, Wm 2-6, Admirer.

CHRISTIAN WOOD GALLERY, 10, York St, W. 1. 10.30-5.30. Tel: 01-833 2211. 10-8, Wm 2-6, Admirer.

CHRISTOPHER HULL GALLERY, 10, York St, W. 1. 10.30-5.30. Tel: 01-833 2211. 10-8, Wm 2-6, Admirer.

EXHIBITIONS

YOUNG BLOOD Open today 10.7-5.30. Royal College of Art, Daily 10-5.30. Reduced prices for children.

PRINCE ALBERT No life and work. Royal College of Art, Daily 10-5.30. Wednesday 10.8.

ART GALLERIES

ANTHONY GIFFAY 4, 23 Deane St, W. 1. 10.30-5.30. Tel: 01-833 2211. 10-8, Wm 2-6, Admirer.

Battle for a breakthrough

"I want you to knock my socks off!" Cliff Robertson tells the hero of *Brainstorm*. It is a strange remark for an actor who generally passes through films without raising an eyebrow. But extreme circumstances breed extreme reactions, and Robertson is about to witness a colossal technological breakthrough.

With the aid of a headset, video tape and years of secret research, he now plays himself into a person's thoughts, feelings and physical sensations. The test tape takes Robertson hunting, motorcycling and rushing down a tube. But other tapes are far less innocuous: one comes from a "psychic" Epiney, another records a character's death.

In the story, the breakthrough was accomplished by Christopher Walken and Louise Fletcher, research scientists for American corporation; in reality, credit belongs to Douglas Trumbull, the special effects wizard making his first film as director since the beguiling *Silent Running* (1971). Trumbull has been far from idle, however: he supervised the effects for *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, the first *Star Trek* film and *Blade Runner*. He has also developed a new widescreen process called Showscan, which photographs and projects high-definition images at top speed (60 frames per second, rather than 24) and requires custom-built cinemas.

Brainstorm was once envisaged as a Showscan project, though it ran into sufficient problems using conventional



Hands on head: Natalie Wood, who died while filming *Brainstorm*

movie technology. Many stemmed from the tragic drowning of co-star Natalie Wood in November 1981. Several weeks of shooting and all the elaborate special effects still lay ahead, but the MGM brass were tempted to repair their parlous finances by abandoning the film and collecting over 12 million dollars of insurance money from Lloyds.

Trumbull pleaded for completion, and production resumed, in February 1982, using almost 53m provided by Lloyds. Wood's death only necessitated a minor re-allocation of dialogue.

Yet MGM still wavered, and even allowed Lloyds to approach outside distributors to

Films on TV

"How old: Gary Grant?" cabled the editor of a fan magazine. "Old Gary Grant fine," came the riposte, "how you?" He is still fine, though long since retired from movies, and next month he celebrates his eightieth birthday. For BBC2 and Channel 4, however, the celebration starts this week.

Picking the best from more than 70 films covering 34 years of cinema but a case can be made for the screwball comedies directed by Howard Hawks, in which the suave and assured Grant persona is undermined and humiliated to hilarious effect.

In *Monkey Business* (1952), on Channel 4 today (2.35-4.15pm), he takes a drug which produces a reversion to childhood; in *I Was a Male War Bride* (1949), Channel 4 tomorrow (10.25pm-12.20am), he is forced to dress up as a woman; and in *Bringing Up Baby* (1938), the BBC2 offering on Monday (3.55-5.35pm), he tries to cope with a baby leopard.

Other Grant films this week, all on BBC2, are: *Night and Day* (1946), today (8.50-10.58pm); *Mr Lucky* (1943), Tues (4.53-5.35pm); *Every Girl Should Be Married* (1948), Wed (4.15-5.35pm); *Mr Blandings Builds His Dream House* (1948), Thurs (3.30-5pm); and *The Grass Is Greener* (1960), Fri (3.55-5.35pm). The season continues up to the new year.

Peter Waymark

Also recommended: *Point Blank* (1967); Lee Marvin with a score to settle in John Boorman's fine, uncompromising, location-shot gangster piece; *Angie*, Dickinson and Keenan Wynn in support (BBC1, Mon, 9.25-10.55pm); *Rollerball* (1975); James Caan, John Houseman and Ralph Richardson in Norman Jewison's vision of this twenty-first century, expressed through a violent combination of football and hockey (BBC2, Tues, 9-11pm); *The General* (1926); Buster Keaton's comedy and finely realized comic about a locomotive during the American Civil War; one of four Keaton films on Channel 4 this week (Wed, 5.30-6.30pm); *The Dirty Dozen* (1967); Lee Marvin, Ernest Borgnine and Charles Bronson are among lifers recruited for a commando suicide mission; a huge commercial success for its director, Robert Aldrich, who died recently (BBC1, Fri, 10.05pm-12.30am); *Monkey Business* (1981); inaugurates a season of six Marx Brothers' films on BBC2 over the Christmas period; the one in which Groucho and company are discovered as stowaways on an ocean liner (BBC2, Fri, 10.30-11.45pm).

*First British television showing.

Critics' choice

action - trying to prevent the world's destruction in a renegade Bond adventure.

OLIVER TWIST (PG)
Classic Tottenham Court Road, for matinee shows only (8.35 8.148)
A new version of the Charles Dickens novel, made with an eye on television. Unambitious direction by Clive Donner, but the character actors are hard to work. George C. Scott as Fagin, Michael Hordern as Mr Brownlow and Tim Curry as Bill Sikes.

TRADING PLACES (15)
ABC Fulham Road (370 2636)
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (836 8861)
Emma Lee Leicester Square (437 1234)
A snug white pillar of Wall Street is forced to swap fortunes with a resilient black comrade. John Landis's comedy avoids trenchant satire and lacks the riposte wit of its Hollywood ancestors, but performances and details please. Viewed by a large audience bent on enjoyment, its success seems guaranteed. With Dan Aykroyd, Eddie Murphy, Ralph Bellamy, Don Ameche, Jamie Curtis.

MARY POPPINS (U)
The Royal, Charing Cross Road (832 8121)
Disney's famous musical about an Edwardian nanny with magical gifts; full of high spirits, jolly songs and technical wizardry. Made in 1964, with Julie Andrews, David Tomlinson, Glynis Johns, Dick Van Dyke.

NEVER SAY NEVER AGAIN (PG)
ABC Baywater Road (229 4149)
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (836 8861)
Classic Haymarket (839 1527)
Classic Tottenham Court Road (836 8148)
Studio Oxford Circus (437 3300)
Warner World Centre (437 8791)
and on national release
"Never," Sean Connery used to say when asked to play James Bond again after relinquishing the role in 1971. Yet here he is - older, less jaunty, but still primed for

PERSONAL COLUMNS

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PREVIEW Music

Concerts

FRENCH FESTIVITE
Today, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall, 26 Wimpole St, London W1 (885 2141, credit cards 838 8232)
The Wigmore Christmas concert, by various artists, continues the current season's French tendency with music by Saint-Saens, Messiaen, Debussy, Satie, and Poulenc.

EASY WINNERS
Today, 7.30pm, Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (828 3181, credit cards 828 5544)
Naomi Davidson plays rage by Joplin and his contemporaries on the piano. They include *Easy Winners*, *Magnetic Rag*, *Pastimes*, *Nightingale Rag*, *Go! Go!*.

HAYDN'S FAREWELL
Today, 7.30pm, Royal Northern College of Music, 124 Oxford Road, Manchester (061-273 6404)
The RNCM chamber orchestra under Malcolm Layfield ends term with Haydn's "Farewell" Symphony after playing two rarities - Howard Ferguson's Concerto (soloist, Kathryn Turner) and Bliss's Music for Strings.

BEEHIVE QUARTETS
Tomorrow, 8.30pm, Conway Hall, 100 St. Marks Lane, London WC1 (242 8032)
For the last South Place concert before Christmas, the Ampton Quartet play Beehive's Quartet Op 18 No 5, Op 132 and Op 135.

ALL-STARS
Tomorrow, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (828 3181, credit cards 828 5544)
The Dwellington String Orchestra presents an introductory and Allegro, Tchaikovsky's Serenade, Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante K364 (with Norbert Brainin, violin, and Peter Schidlo, viola, of the Ampton Quartet), John Lubbock conducts.

FAR AWAY PRINCESS
Mon, 8pm, St John's Restaurant for a supper recital with the title *The Far Away Princess*. It is a programme of music by Madeline Dring (1923-77), including settings of Shakespeare and Beethoven.

Rock & Jazz

YNA TURNER
Tonight to Tues, The Venue, 160 Victoria Street, London SW1 (828 9441)
The wildest mother-of-four in pop history, Mrs Turner has been produced by the British producers of "Let's Stay Together".

THE POLICE
Tonight, St Austell Coliseum, Tues, NEC, Birmingham; Fri, Brighton Centre.
Who controls a stadium audience with more authority than Sting?

ROBERT PLANT
Tonight, Brighton Centre; tomorrow, Oxford Apollo; Tues, Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham; Wed, De Montfort Hall, Leicester; Fri, Birmingham Odeon.
The ex-Led Zepplin singer takes his new solo material on the road.

GEORGE MELLY
Tonight and Mon to Sat until Dec 21, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Frith Street, London W1 (436 0747)
The annual Melly Innes-up, climaxing on New Year's Eve.

PAUL YOUNG
Tonight, Royal Court, Liverpool; tomorrow, Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham; Mon, De Montfort Odeon; Thurs, Brighton Centre; Fri/Sat, Hammersmith Odeon.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 226)

Prizes of the New Collins Concise English dictionary will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, December 22, 1983. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9N 9YJ. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, December 24, 1983.

ACROSS

- Appointments (5)
- Hindrance (3,4)
- Beaver-like rodent (5)
- Local (7)
- Figurative allusion (8)
- Hereditary unit (4)
- Aspir (8)
- Sylvan deity (5)
- Undersize person (4)
- Epilepsy (5,3)
- Similarity (7)
- Serics vegetarian (5)
- Distemper (7)
- Superlative little (5)

DOWN

- Abscord (5)
- Secret meeting (5)
- Figure carver (8)
- Everyday light play (6)
- Binding strip (4)
- Magic (7)
- Slaughterer (6)
- Festive occasion (8)
- Amusement park (7)
- Exhaled air (6)
- Became irritated (6)
- Celestial body (6)
- Earth's crust liquid (5)
- Abound (5)
- Secret meeting (5)
- Figure carver (8)
- Everyday light play (6)
- Binding strip (4)
- Magic (7)
- Slaughterer (6)
- Festive occasion (8)
- Amusement park (7)
- Exhaled air (6)
- Became irritated (6)
- Celestial body (6)
- Earth's crust liquid (5)
- Abound (5)

SOLUTION TO No 225
ACROSS: 1 Tricked 5 Lymph 8 Ova 9 Impound
10 Cards 11 Flak 12 Starc
14 Roller coaster 16 Uncouth 18 Spat 21 Reent
22 Face off 23 Fat 24 Ties 25 Salazar
DOWN: 1 Twin 2 Tipped 3 Knuckle duster
17 Became irritated (6)
4 Dodds 5 Lactidical 6 Marxist 7 Hoatsy
18 Celestial body (6)
13 Froufrou 15 Lock out 17 Hefts 19 Adops
20 Aft
Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

SOLUTION TO No 220 (Last Saturday's prize concise)
ACROSS: 1 Carob 4 Illicit 8 Spurn 9 Snippet 10 Rhetoric 11 Nigh 13 Spot
15 Revel 19 Heal 20 Harpune 23 Radiant 24 Truce 25 Bustle 26 Radon
DOWN: 1 Casero 2 Route 3 Bonhomie 4 Instil 5 Lair 6 Caprice 7 Tetchy
12 Megastar 14 Ps and Qs 16 Cherub 17 Baster 18 Herain 21 Gourd
22 Mail

The winners of prize concise No 220 are: Mrs F. M. McGill, 96 Spencer Way, Redhill, Surrey, and A. Hall, 49 Hex Way, Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex.

Name: _____
Address: _____

THE WEEK AHEAD

Today

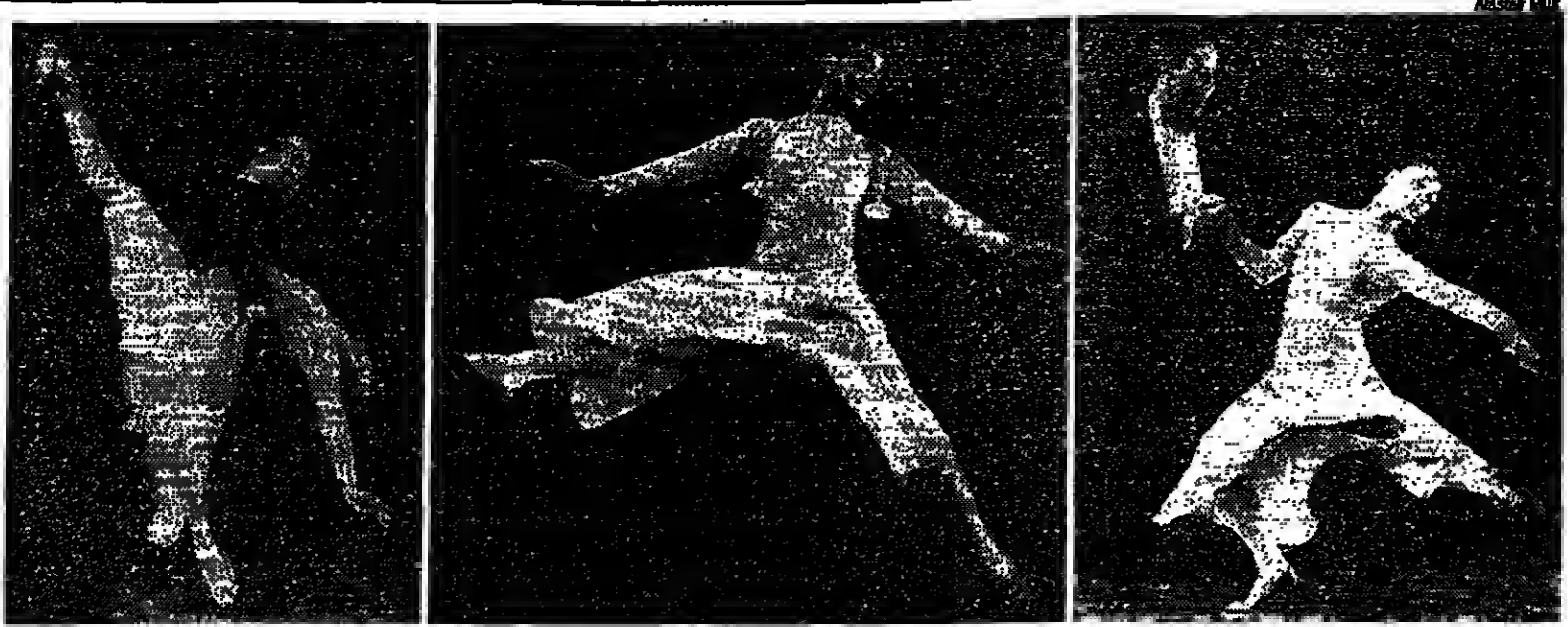
CAROLS: The Royal Choral Society under Meredith Davies leads the singing in the traditional family carol concerts...

MESSIAH: Handel's oratorio, receives several performances this week...

PETER PAN: The Royal Shakespeare Company a revival of the J. M. Barrie fantasy opens on Thurs at 7pm...

SINBAD THE SAILOR: Ken Dodd and his Diddymen feature in this first London revival of the show since 1907...

THE YEARS BETWEEN: First radio production of Daphne du Maurier's play, staged in London in 1945...



Stimulating steps: Three moves from "Nine Sinatra Songs" by Shelley Washington and Keith Young of Twyla Tharp (see Dance)

Tomorrow

PELICAN DELTA: The delta of the River Danube is the most important remaining area for waterfowl in Europe...

PRANKS: The Forty Minutes documentary takes a light-hearted seasonal look at various unlikely services available for hire...

Monday

PAINTINGS QUIZ: The National Gallery is running two quizzes which demand a more careful look at its paintings...

LUNCHTIME AT THE PALACE: Entertainment at the Palace Theatre, organized by its owner, Andrew Lloyd Webber...

Richard Stilgoe entertains; there is a juggler and illusionist on Thurs; and Andrew Lloyd Webber and friends hold a Christmas party on Fri...

HI-DE-HI: The stage version of the popular television comedy series, set in a 1950s holiday camp...

THE WIZARD OF OZ: Charlie Drake and Fanelia Fielding have leading roles in the Cowardly Lion and the Wicked Witch of the West...

GOOD FOR THE FIRST MILE: Six months in the life of the policeman's son, aged 22, from Jarrov...

A TALENT FOR MURDER: Lord Olivier makes his first appearance in a BBC television drama, an adaptation of the comedy thriller by Jerome Chodorov...

GOING, GOING: The history of motoring, cycling and flight is encompassed in a giant sale of 550 lots...

Tuesday

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL: The London Symphony Orchestra gives three concerts of seasonal music...

ORWELL ON JURA: With 1984 only two weeks away, be prepared for an avalanche of media reassessments...

Wednesday

TREASURED POSSESSIONS: Owners of historic houses in England, Scotland and Wales have lent more than 200 works of art...

GOING, GOING: The history of motoring, cycling and flight is encompassed in a giant sale of 550 lots...

Thursday

COUNTRY LINES: A lovely piece of railway nostalgia as Breakfast Time reporter Nigel Farrell travels on four of the most picturesque and remote branch lines...

ACCOUNTS: The latest in the series of films produced under the auspices of Channel 4 is a sensitive study of a widow and her two sons...

Friday

WINNING CAROL: The BBC Television Carol Competition, now in its eighth year and being run for the first time by Breakfast Time...

HELLO DOLLY!: Danny La Rue, Lionel Jeffries, Lorna Dallas open the first ever production of the popular Jerry Herman musical...

PRIDE OF OUR ALLEY: The busy Alan Plater turns from the tortured last years of George Orwell to the Lancashire mill girl Grace Stanisfield...

DOIN' WHAT COMES NATURALLY: Sheridan Morley looks at the phenomenon of Irving Berlin, now 95...

THE ROADS OF EXILE: Francois Simon stars as the eighteenth century Swiss philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau in a two-part television film...

Week following Dec 24 (Christmas Eve): Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, King's College, Cambridge, at 3pm.

Country Diary

Changes at home on the ranges

The last country diary I wrote was criticized in some quarters for harping too much on motorways and, worse still, for being apparently in their favour...

My host is Robin Mallin, who learnt to fly in the Royal Air Force and nowadays does most of his business travelling at the controls of a Cessna six-seater...

It began life back in 1966, when he and three fellow farmers decided to pool their resources. Only two of the original four partners remain...

It is this, I wonder, the shape of things to come: bits and pieces of the countryside preserved as rural museums, while all around them the new agribusiness managers go about their task of wresting ever higher yields from soils drenched in fertilizers and herbicides?

But Velcourt claim the damage was all done before they arrived. Not only do they make a practice of not removing trees and hedgerows, but they planted 30,000 new trees last year alone...



The key to conservation, Robin insists, is profitability. "There's no way you can do a Capability Brown unless you can pay for it..."

It seemed like a good idea at the time, but after a decade Velcourt has gone back to ploughing. It is also concerned about the size and weight of modern farm machinery...

Malton farm, which is nearly 700 acres, is run by two men, with extra casual help at harvest time. In winter the main tasks are machine maintenance and keeping the pigeons off the oilseed rape...

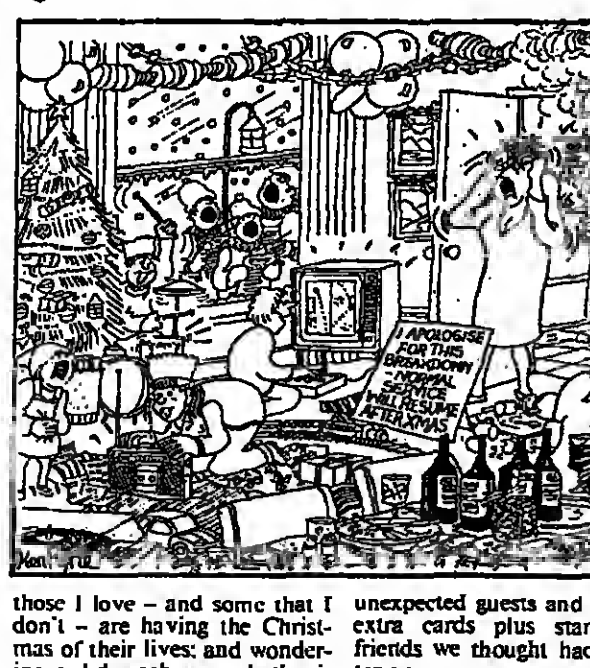
Tim Durrant, the manager, says the birds get used to the "gas guns", to which propane is ignited by batteries at timed intervals to make a bang. He thinks there is more future in radio-controlled model aircraft...

Now that reality is innovation. John Young

Family Life

Hints for reluctant yuletide hostesses

In the carefree days of my youth, before I learned to drive or had children, I used to look forward to Christmas. On the morning of Christmas Eve I would take a taxi to Liberty's...



those I love - and some that I don't - are having the Christmas of their lives; and wondering as I do each year, whether it is worth all the effort and expense...

Save all cardboard boxes because dustbins are never big enough. Buy twice as much wrapping paper. Sellotape, butter and cream as I think I'll need...

LOOKING INTO SPACE: The Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (821 1313). Today until Jan 8 except Dec 23-25 and Jan 1, Mon-Sat 10am-5.50pm, Sun 2pm-5.50pm...

Bridge

Fatal decision that dealt defeat

The all-American semi-final of the 1983 World Championship was a one-sided contest which the Aces won by 185 IMPs to 83 IMPs.

It seems to me that South (Lebel) must take the blame for missing the excellent slam. After all, North (Soulet) had cue bid both his opponents' suits...

This was the Italian bidding: W Mosca N Soulet E Lauria S Lebel. W Mosca: 14-24-30-44. N Soulet: 4-10-13-16. E Lauria: 4-10-13-16. S Lebel: 4-10-13-16.

This was the bidding when France held the North-South cards. W Mosca N Soulet E Lauria S Lebel. W Mosca: 14-24-30-44. N Soulet: 4-10-13-16. E Lauria: 4-10-13-16. S Lebel: 4-10-13-16.

Chess

Refreshing vigour of a winner

My absorption with the Acorn Computer World Championship semifinals, which have been rightly attracting great public attention at the Great Eastern Hotel in Liverpool Street, London, has prevented me from covering a number of highly attractive and important Swiss system events that have been, and are being, played in November and December.

White: C. Crouch, Black: H. J. Plaskett. Q.P. Queen's Indian Defence. This idea, by now a little old-fashioned though once regarded as the latest mode, is a counter-attack justified by White's waste of a tempo with P-Q3.

Chess board diagram showing piece positions for a game between Mosca and Soulet.

To the accompaniment of Italian groans in the audience, Mosca and Lauria languished in four clubs. It seemed as if Italy's fate was sealed. But this was the bidding in the other room:

Chess board diagram showing piece positions for a game between France and Italy.

I A moderate hand with both majors. 2 A well-judged barrage. 3 Perhaps a little under strength, but Corn could not allow non-vulnerable opponents to "pick his pocket".

It turned out to be a fatal decision when De Falco led the ♠A and gave his partner a ruff. So the Italians emerged battered but victorious to face their old rivals, the American Aces, in the 176-board final.

Plaskett rightly condemns the "hole" this creates on Q4 and recommends instead 12 P-K3.

White: C. Crouch, Black: H. J. Plaskett. Q.P. Queen's Indian Defence. This idea, by now a little old-fashioned though once regarded as the latest mode, is a counter-attack justified by White's waste of a tempo with P-Q3.

A new, but not particularly good, idea. Plaskett thinks 5... P-Q4 a more correct response, but I like this vigorous move.

A game conducted with refreshing vigour by the winner. Harry Golombek

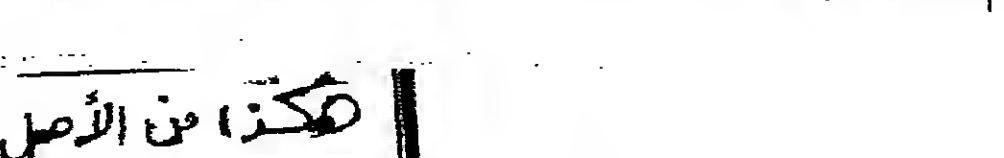
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Secrets of... Total sells £20m stake in Australia... INTEREST RATES... NEWS IN BRIEF



FINANCE AND INDUSTRY Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

A Crocker full of trouble for Midland



Geoffrey Taylor: Legacy to sort out.

To judge from Crocker Bank's losses the end of Midland Bank's suffering is not yet in sight. Midland has had more than its share of misfortune; for example, Lord Armstrong's untimely death in 1980 was followed by an unsatisfactory and uncertain interregnum.

and vulnerable loan positions in Latin America. It had a deep commitment in real estate lending in California and, again in common with other US banks, it was running into a period of intensifying pressure on margins.

Secrets of a Telecom engineer

If you want some plumbing done, say, British Telecom engineers can usually oblige. They cannot be accused of moonlighting because, in my experience, the work is done in daylight when ordinary people are trying to get through to British Telecom to find out why they cannot have a telephone installed without waiting weeks.

ing the letter box with a visiting card. They had, I was told by the supplier, "made an appointment for that day and had now made another appointment in January." But I protested, they had made no such appointment with me.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tootal sells £20m stake in Australia

The Tootal Group has agreed to sell its stake in the Australian Bradmill Industries for £20.1m to Entrand, the Australian public company that was party to the failed bid for Courtauld's Australian subsidiary, Courtauld Hilton.

City and industry urged to share export tip-offs

A secretariat based on the Confederation of British Industry to swap export sales leads between manufacturers, City bankers and consultants was proposed yesterday in a report sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Charterhouse Petroleum in £47m deal Expansion for oil high-flier

Charterhouse Petroleum confirmed its reputation as one of the fastest growing and most ambitious of the smaller British oil companies yesterday with a £47m acquisition, which it coupled with a £38.7m rights issue.

Rothschild buys maximum stake in Smith Brothers

Rothschild Group, the holding company of merchant bank N M Rothschild, has reached agreement to buy a 29.9 per cent stake in Smith Brothers the London stockjobbers. The stake is the maximum permitted by the Stock Exchange.

business will be incorporated into a subsidiary 51 per cent owned by Rothschild, 49 per cent by Smith. The offshoot will be capitalized at £10m, half of which will be paid for by Smith.

£6m part bid for Maynards

Mr Lewis Cartier, the entrepreneur who built Cartier Superfoods out of a butcher's delivery round, is back in Britain and has made a surprise partial bid for Maynards, the confectionery and toy chain.

London Brick to lobby OFT

London Brick is expected to lobby the Office of Fair Trading next week in an attempt to have an unwanted £170m cash bid from Hanson Trust referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

£58m loss at British Shipbuilders

British Shipbuilders, which is threatened with a national shipyard strike next month, confirmed yesterday that its losses for the half year to September 30 totalled £58m.

Public sector borrowing up sharply

Public sector borrowing rose sharply in November, hitting the total to £8.8 billion in the first eight months of the financial year. This is £3 billion higher than at the corresponding time last year but Whitehall officials pointed out yesterday that there were many special factors and the Treasury is still confident that the Chancellor's latest forecasts will be met.

Pound loses 85 points

Sterling ended the day at a new closing low against the dollar of \$1.4140, a drop of 85 points, as the US currency surged ahead again on the foreign exchange markets.

STOCK EXCHANGES

Table with columns for FT Index, FT 100, FT All Share, and various international indices like New York, Tokyo, and Hong Kong.

CURRENCIES

Table showing exchange rates for Sterling, DM, FF, Yen, and Dollar against various currencies.

INTERNATIONAL

Table showing international gold prices and other market data.

Advertisement for Barlow Clowes & Partners featuring the headline 'If you have a gilt maturing in 1984.. What next?' and details about government stock redemption and investment services.

INTEREST RATES

Table listing interest rates for domestic rates, Euro-currency rates, US rates, and ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling.

Mortgages

FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

Unit trusts

Policy option

Investors with a maturing London Life andowment policy will now have the option of reinvesting the proceeds in a London Life unit-linked investment bond.

Loans link

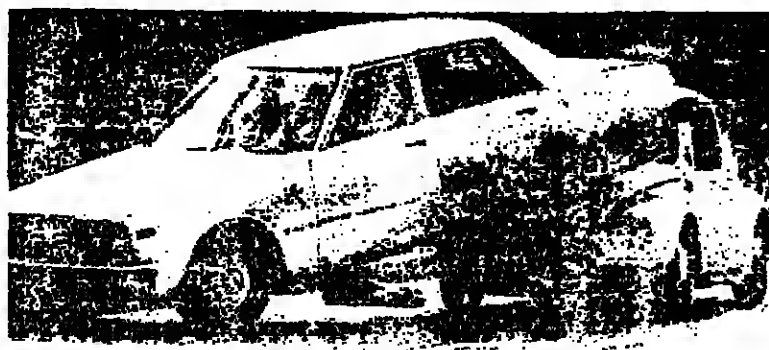
Personal loans from Midland Bank are available to investors who keep a minimum of £100 in Nationwide Building Society's Flexaccount.

Tax surprise

Startling differentials in top rates of tax come to light in a new guide Personal Taxes Around the World, produced by the international accountants, Spicer Oppenheim.

Mortgage hope

Housebuyers having difficulty getting a mortgage should try Skipton Building Society, which announces this week that it has funds available to lend to members and non-members.



Some insurance premiums can be discounted if more than one car is to be covered

Dearer motoring

Legal and General is increasing motor insurance premiums by 7 per cent. "But the company says: defending its price like a number of car groups have been reduced for rating purposes, and a whole series of discounts have been introduced."

Incentives book

Small businesses needing to know how to get the most out of Government and local authority incentive schemes should obtain a copy of Robson Rhodes, the accounts' latest publication.

Government Incentives and Assistance for Industry in the UK, lists everything from youth employment subsidies to EEC loans and grants to the coal and steel industry.

Did you know that interest-free loans are available to fishing cooperatives or that 15 man-days' unpaid consultancy can be obtained from the Design Council for engineering and industrial companies with design problems? It is all in the book.

Chip chat

Help is at hand for the difficult business of choosing a computer. The Institute of Chartered Accountants has published a guide called Making a Success of Microcomputing in your Business.

the authors, are founder members of the Microcomputer Advisory Service at Manchester University. Ben Farnell is a consultant with the Small Firms Advisory Service at the Department of Industry.

Holiday credit

Holidaymakers who book a holiday through Intasun will be offered revolving credit facility from Boston Trust and Savings which allows them to borrow up to £3,000 at an annual rate of 23.8 per cent.

Mortgages

Home loans queues may disappear

Home loans will be easier to come by in the New Year and mortgage queues may disappear altogether. This will exert upward pressure on house prices so avoid delay if you are thinking of moving house.

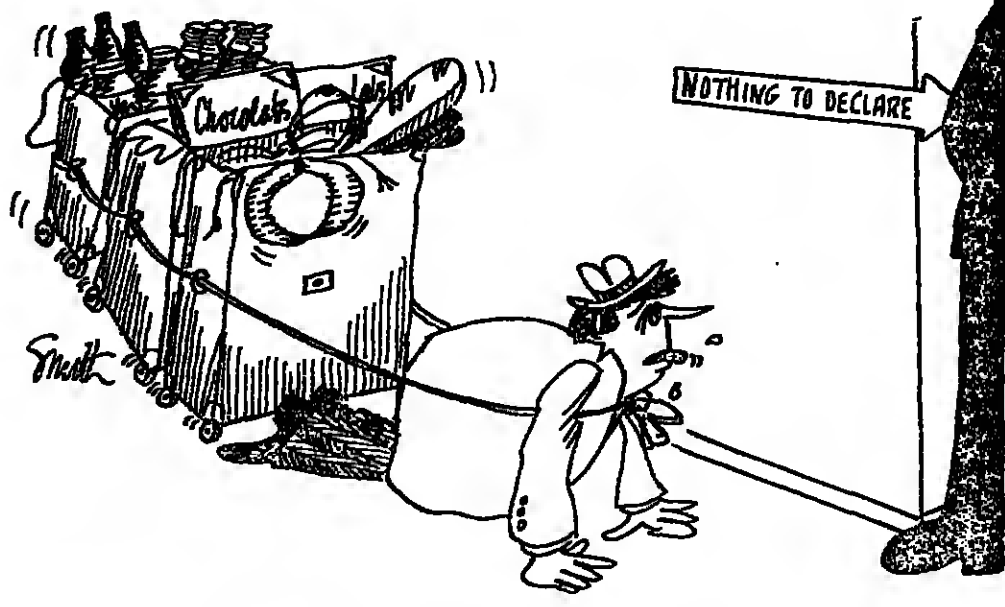
Estate duty

Play Santa Claus and cut capital transfer taxation

If you are looking for more valuable alternatives to book tokens, silk ties or lampers from Fortnum and Mason to give this Christmas, then pause a moment to consider how much of your estate might go to the tax man.

Gifts made within your lifetime or under annual exemptions often provide worthwhile savings from prospective capital transfer tax (CTT) - the modern equivalent of estate duty.

be helped in this way if they are not taxpayers. It is important to be aware that income arising from any gifts made by parents to minor children will be assessed on the parents.



Cross-Channel shopping

Preparation will help to unlock quayside value

There are only six cross-Channel shopping days to Christmas and already the men are in a panic. Spouses who would not be seen dead in their local supermarket seem to take to Continental shopping like ducks to water.

You can bring back up to seven litres of wine per person from France, provided you bring no other alcohol, or 50 litres of beer, which is less than half price at home.

lobsters crawling round the hypermarket's fish stall. Bulk purchases are probably best made in the hypermarkets, but the smaller town-centre shops are better hunting grounds for the dedicated eater.

Cross Channel Shopping Prices

Table with 2 columns: UK, France. Items include Cotes du Bergerac (bottle), Olive Oil (1/2 litre), Grand Coffee (1 lb), Cordon (1 lb), Brie (1 lb), Terroir de Champagne.

was roughly the same price as in Britain, but much better quality. Pates do keep in the freezer.

Really keen shoppers do not have lunch before they start. Alcohol, I discovered, plays havoc with the calculator. You also tend to spend the best part of the afternoon searching for the pate or cheese you enjoyed so much at mid-day.

Margaret Drummond

Advertisement for Barlow Clowes & Partners 'A Roll-Up Alternative'. Features 'Capital Gains' and 'NO INITIAL FEES'.

Advertisement for 'Insurance Easy steps to cover a slip-up'. Discusses household insurance and third-party liability cover.

Large advertisement for 'COME IN ROLL-UP INVESTORS YOUR TIME'S UP'. Promotes the 'EXTRA VALUE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT' from Standard Chartered Bank (C.I.) Limited, starting on JAN 1ST.

FAMILY MONEY

Unit trust performance

The figures show the value on December 1 of £100 invested 12 months, and three years ago respectively, on an offer-to-offer price basis, net income reinvested. Figures supplied by Planned Savings.

Table with columns for FINANCIAL, INCOME, and GROWTH, listing various unit trusts and their performance metrics over 12 and 36 months.

Table with columns for INCOME, listing various unit trusts and their performance metrics over 12 and 36 months.

Table with columns for OVERSEAS, listing various unit trusts and their performance metrics over 12 and 36 months.

Table with columns for SPECIALIST, listing various unit trusts and their performance metrics over 12 and 36 months.

House Buyers Bill

Lawyers aim to get in on the Act

The surprise success yesterday of Mr Austin Mitchell's House Buyers Bill means it now goes to committee stage where it is generally thought the Government will do its best to kill it off, even though it will be reluctant to ignore the powerful solicitors' lobby.

Large table titled 'Unit Trust Prices - change on the week' containing multiple columns of financial data, including unit prices and percentage changes for various trusts.

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially obscured, featuring the letters 'A P' and 'W'.

MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

Glaxo's lucky run ends

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 12. Dealings end, Dec 29. Contango Day, Dec 30. Settlement Day, Jan 9.

The Americans yesterday were sellers of Glaxo - one of Britain's biggest drug manufacturers - and overnight dissolved what promised to be a week of good fortune.

Yesterday, the shares slipped a further 5p to 715p, after 707p, a decline in the week of 15p. This was in spite of the US food and Drug Administration recommending approval for the group to market its anti-ulcer drug, Zantac, in an injectable form this week.

At present, Zantac, taken in oral form, has cornered about 20 per cent of the US anti-ulcer market worth about \$97m (£67m) a year since it was introduced there during the autumn.

Broker de Zoete & Bevan is pleased with the news and estimates the important hospital market in the US is worth \$75m annually. Unfortunately, American investors are now rushing to sell the shares to establish favourable tax positions before the year-end and this has depressed the price in London.

But de Zoete says Glaxo is attractive at this price and is

recommending the shares as a 'buy'. De Zoete is also seen as Fisons, down 2p at 737p, but is less than impressed by Beecham Group, down 1p at 320p, and Amersham International, 2p

the FT Index rising 6.5 to 759.3. Bid situations again dominated the market's mood with Hanson Trust's bid for London Brick showing sentiment.

Glits showed little sign of activity with the latest slow down in the level of inflation being countered by some worse-than-expected public sector borrowing requirement figures. On the foreign exchange, the pound failed to consolidate of Thursday's rally, losing 25 points at \$1.4140.

But bank shares were hit by the news of the losses by Midland Bank's United States subsidiary, Crocker International, which wiped 53p from the parent at 384p. Barclays was also battered by fears it was having problems in the United States with the oil market, but closed above the worst levels of the day. The shares eventually lost 3p at 484p. Another big loser was

Lloyds Bank, 17p down at 537p.

Among the merchant banks, Hill Samuel lost 20p to 328p on

London and Liverpool Trust shares plunged to 24p at one stage yesterday amid rumours of heavy losses on its Teletor project. The price later recovered to 28p. Lloyds Bowmaker Finance Group, part of Lloyds and Scottish, is said to be making a £7m write-off of its £71m investment in the project.

A Lloyds Bowmaker spokesman said: "We cannot discuss a customer's business. We have an investment in London and Liverpool and we own no shares." Lloyds Scottish shares eased 1p to 47p.

profit taking. Speculation has been rife all week that the group is in talks with an American bidder and there were suggestions yesterday that these talks

might have stalled. Hill Samuel said: "We never comment on market gossip". The price is still 8p up on the week and 151p above its low for the year.

In leaders Tatt & Lyle was a flat market, falling 8p to 365p. Earlier this week Lord Hanson's Trust, was said to have placed around 2.75 million shares, ahead of bidding for London Brick. Unfortunately, Hanson never comment. But the bid for LB sparked-off renewed interest in several other companies including Baggeridge Brick, up 8p to 138p, Hestock Johnson, 8p to 172p and Nottingham Brick, 15p to 430p.

Mr Eric Parker's services to Trafalgar House where he is now group chief executive have been recognised: he is the sole member of an executive share option scheme set up this year. He has an option over 250,000 Trafalgar shares - the maximum possible under the scheme's rules, at a price of 204p, the price reigning on December 6, the day before the scheme was set up. Trafalgar's shares were unchanged yesterday at 206p.

RECENT ISSUES table with columns for issue name, price, and yield.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns for fund name, price, and yield.

MEDIEVAL table with columns for company name, price, and yield.

LONGS table with columns for company name, price, and yield.

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN table with columns for country/region, price, and yield.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES table with columns for authority name, price, and yield.

DOLLAR STOCKS table with columns for company name, price, and yield.

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS table with columns for bank name, price, and yield.

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES table with columns for company name, price, and yield.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL table with columns for company name, price, and yield.

Table of company shares with columns for company name, price, and yield.

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WALL STREET PRICES & COMMENT THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

Table of Wall Street prices and comments with columns for company name, price, and yield.

Table of shipping and mines prices with columns for company name, price, and yield.

Table of financial trusts prices with columns for company name, price, and yield.

Table of insurance prices with columns for company name, price, and yield.

Table of investment trusts prices with columns for company name, price, and yield.

Table of plantations prices with columns for company name, price, and yield.

Table of miscellaneous securities prices with columns for company name, price, and yield.

Table of unlisted securities prices with columns for company name, price, and yield.

Sterling: Spot and Forward

Table of Sterling spot and forward rates with columns for market rates and contract rates.

Money Market Rates

Table of money market rates with columns for clearing bank base rate and weekly bank base rate.

Other Markets

Table of other market rates with columns for Australia, Bahrain, and Hong Kong.

Dollar Spot Rates

Table of dollar spot rates with columns for Ireland, Netherlands, and Switzerland.

Euro-S deposits

Table of Euro-S deposits with columns for 1 month, 3 months, and 6 months.

Gold

Table of gold prices with columns for gold price and gold price.

Charlton's Wall Street recko... A Christmas store at C... Why the Disne...

FOOTBALL: ARSENAL CHAIRMAN IS FORCED TO ACT OVER MANAGER UNDER PERSONAL STRESS

Charlton and Venables enter the reckoning as Neill is dismissed

By David Miller

A week ago Arsenal's chairman Peter Hill-Wood's intention was to stay calm in adversity. Yesterday the club decided to dismiss their manager, Terry Neill. The decision was forced by an acceptance that Neill has been under more personal stress than his urbane Irish humour ever allowed to be publicly apparent.



Charlton: forthright.



Venables: under contract.

must be taken for granted, but I think Hill-Wood, who succeeded his father as chairman, will also want a forthright character capable of controlling and inspiring star players. Charlton is that kind of man, even if his direct North Eastern conversational style occasionally turns Highbury's marble halls a shade of blue, a contrast to Neill's polite blarney and the correct bureaucratic manner of Mee.

permission from Jim Gregory to discuss the possibilities. Hill-Wood would certainly not breach the gentleman's agreement not to poach other club's managers, and indeed Linton's chairman Denis Mortimer was quick to state yesterday that it approached for the admirable David Pate, he would be obliged to say no. "He is very good, and we intend to keep him."

in 1974 when Arsenal first went for him. When that innovative move failed, they appointed Neill. It is only two weeks since Hill-Wood stated that there was no intention of reacting to the outcry from Highbury supporters to make changes, but in the last few days he must have become convinced that it was necessary. Hill-Wood stressed yesterday that he was sad to have to part company with a man who had been a friend for 20 years. Neill joined Arsenal at 17 from Bangor, was made captain by Billy Wright and remained 11 years before moving to Hull, aged 28, as player-manager for four years. At the same time he was manager of Northern Ireland, a post he relinquished when he moved to Spurs. He resigned there, having succeeded Bill Nicholson, and a month later took the vacancy which Miljanic had failed to fill. In seven and a half years under Neill's management Arsenal never finished lower than 10th in the first division, though this season they have slumped to 16th with only seven wins in 17 matches. He took them to three successive FA Cup Finals, of which they won only the middle one, in 1979 against Manchester United. He spent £7.5 million, of which he recouped £4.5 million, but he was severely criticised two seasons ago for allowing Brady and Stapleton to leave, and several more recent expensive signings such as Chapman from Stoke, the Yugoslav Petrovic and Nicholas from Celtic this season, have not been successful. He recently paid £500,000 for Caton, of Manchester City, and it remains to be seen whether, under new direction, Caton can help to stop the undoubted rot which has set in.

Graham and Moran push United to the top

By Stuart Jones Football Correspondent

Manchester U.....4 Tottenham H.....2

Tottenham Hotspur hit back twice with goals from Brazil and Falco at Old Trafford last night but could not stop Manchester United gaining the victory that put them back at the top of the first division. Graham and Moran shared United goals.

The opening dozen minutes were liberally sprinkled with errors but that should be no surprise. It was the most attacking sides in the country have the nerve and the imagination to play outside the textbook and more than that they reject the desire to assist in favour of adventure. That is their respective strength and the foundation for their popularity. The mistakes were committed by Thomas, who allowed Robson to hit Tottenham's bar, by Graham, who let Falco in to take on Bailey, and by Stevens and Clemence. They each felt that Graham's low cross was the other's possibility, and it was. Graham and Moran merely watched it drift in front of them and inside the far post.

A Christmas bargain in store at Carrow Road

By Vince Wright

Norwich City versus Coventry City is not usually a fixture to quicken the pulse but this afternoon's match proved an ideal excuse to forgo Christmas shopping. With Manchester United having played Tottenham Hotspur last night, Carrow Road becomes the unlikely venue for the match of the week but it is a reluctant, almost unflattering club are not only confounding informed opinion by their high placings but have done so through skilful, adventurous football.

Liverpool play Johnson instead of Whelan in midfield, Johnson asked for a transfer when dropped a week ago and another untested player, Hodgson, is chosen as a substitute. West Ham United are waiting to pounce should Liverpool fail but first they have to improve on an appalling record at Nottingham Forest's City Ground. West Ham have lost more times at Forest than on any other ground and indeed have failed to score there since 1969 when Geoff Hurst was on target. The only doubt from the side which beat Ipswich at Wembley last week is despite a dressing down from their manager, Brian Clough after last week's defeat at Watford.

Test for Knox is to stop Rangers setting record

By Hugh Taylor

A young man in a hurry, Archie Knox, the new manager of Dundee, is presented with an unusual challenge as he takes charge of the club for the first time today. At 10:30 he will be trying to stop the revitalized Rangers from gaining a result of special significance, a victory that will enable Jack Wallace to record his fourth league win in succession, something which has not happened in the club's history since 1979.



Wallace: going all out.

could hardly wait to put his players through a vigorous practice match. Dundee, so far, have not become a player with, among others their greatest rivals Dundee United, can prove an outstanding leader. But Rangers are so much more confident nowadays that it is difficult to visualize them dropping a point this afternoon, even though they will be without the suspended McAdam and Redford. Celtic also have three players out of action for their visit to play Hearts at Tynecastle and the new signing from Stirling Albion, John O'Connell, may come into contention for a place in the team.

Halifax in need of home games

Liverpool's home match against Notts County is more interesting than it might appear. Liverpool's greatest strength has been their ability to bounce back after a defeat and that will be put to the test against a County side which thrashed Sunderland 6-1 last week. Over the years they have made a habit of beating the best and losing to the worst and it is not beyond them to spring a surprise today.

The match at Anfield will be a homecoming for the former Liverpool defender, Larry Lloyd, who is now in charge of County. County expect to be unchanged but

FA and players in talks

The Football Association and the Professional Footballers' Association will meet in London next Tuesday to try to solve the financial dispute which is threatening the Liverpool versus Newcastle United FA Cup third round tie on January 6. Which is due to be televised by the BBC.

The FA have offered the PFA £40,000 this season as their share of television fees instead of the usual £100,000. The Players' Association secretary, Gordon Taylor, has warned that he will order the Liverpool and Newcastle players to refuse to play before the cameras if a better offer is not forthcoming. Ted Croker, the FA secretary, said last night that the reduced offer reflected the continuing financial problems of the FA and the PFA. He said that resources had been stretched. They had to make an additional £1,180,000 payment over the next five years to Wembley Stadium towards a £4m refurbishment scheme. Croker claimed that PFA finances were in a "very satisfactory state". Last year almost £300,000 was available for transfer to PFA reserves.

Skelton takes Everest stable to second Olympia summit

By Jenny MacArthur

The powerful Everest stable gained their second victory in two days when Nick Skelton took first place on the Swedish-bred Everest Cat in the Cognac Courvoisier Handicap at the second of the two international show jumping championships. The previous night Liz Edgar had won the main competition, riding Everest Forever. Skelton's victory was a surprise. He set the time to beat with a clear round in 49.25sec on the Dutch-bred Sanyo Galexi. Malcolm Pyrah knocked nearly a second off this time riding Mrs Conway's Sea Pearl. The grey mare showed how athletic she is when she cleared fence nine, an upright, although she had approached it wrongly and had to adjust her stride at the last second. Skelton, going near the end, produced a finely judged round to finish in 48.05sec. Pyrah was relegated to second place, with the Swiss rider, Willem Mellinger, finishing third on The Crack.

Paul Sutton, aged 18, from Cheshire, added another laurel to his crown when he won the

Thursday night showed once again that as a stylist he is without peer. Riding the German-bred Everest Forever, she achieved a round of sheer perfection in the 12-horse jump-off. Taking such a short route around the six fences that they never appeared to be hurrying, they clipped half a second off the time of John Whitaker and Ryan's Son. This year's biggest money-winner, who finished second, Lesley McNaught, who left the Edgars Warwickshire yard earlier this year, rode with characteristic determination to finish third on Sklon Mlle Supplis. Barbara, David Broome on Last Resort put up a fine challenge and was up on his sister's time, but unluckily hit the middle part of the final combination. COGNAC COURVOISIER HANDICAP AND OUT: 1, Everest Cat (N Skelton) 48.05; 2, Sea Pearl (M Pyrah) 48.25; 3, The Crack (W Mellinger) 48.32; 4, Sea Pearl (M Pyrah) 48.32; 5, Sanyo Galexi (M Pyrah) 48.32; 6, Mrs Conway's Sea Pearl (L Skelton) 48.32; 7, Mrs Conway's Sea Pearl (L Skelton) 48.32; 8, Mrs Conway's Sea Pearl (L Skelton) 48.32; 9, Mrs Conway's Sea Pearl (L Skelton) 48.32; 10, Mrs Conway's Sea Pearl (L Skelton) 48.32; 11, Mrs Conway's Sea Pearl (L Skelton) 48.32; 12, Mrs Conway's Sea Pearl (L Skelton) 48.32.

Share issue raises only £62,500

Birmingham City, weighed down by debts of £1.85m at the end of last year, has raised only £62,500 from its second share issue. Keith Coombes, the chairman, said at yesterday's annual meeting that administrative costs would be £30,000 and therefore the club could not be as generous as they would have liked in backing Ron Saunders, the manager, in the transfer market. "As the offer was not fully subscribed, anyone who bought shares is entitled to have their money returned," Mr Coombes said. "But my feeling is that the vast majority will want to keep their money in the club."

The resignation of Richard Burman, the club's financial director, was partly blamed for the lack of big money invested before the share issue closed on Thursday. Mr Burman had questioned whether the club could continue to trade because of a deficiency of £606,000 between assets and liabilities. Saunders, who said that he had been quoted £300,000 and £200,000 for two players he wants, told shareholders of the massive losses forced on the club. He said: "In the last 12 months I have become a very efficient cost accountant."

Share issue raises only £62,500

Wales could be booted from the 1986 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, as concern grows among African nations over continued English rugby links with South Africa. The Ghanaian Government are expected to approach the Commonwealth Games Federation in the next few weeks. The federation has excluded them from the Games. Other countries, including Nigeria and Tanzania, seem certain to back Ghana. A South African rugby team have arrived in Wales of a tour. SNOOKE: Jimmy White and Tony Knowles won two frames to level their 10th-century world doubles semi-final round match against Cliff Thorburn and John Virgo 4-4 by the interval at Northampton. White and Knowles had defeated Terry Griffiths and Doug Mountjoy in the quarter-finals on Thursday night. BOXING: Herol Graham (Britain) will defend his European light-middleweight title against Sid Skidmore, the French champion, in Paris on January 16. TENNIS: John McEnroe and Martina Navratilova have been named the top male and female professionals by Tennis magazine.

Why the Americans found that ex-Football League managers are best

Disneyland saved by the British

From all over the world they came in the late 1970s, footballers lured by reports of the fabulous wealth to be made in their own special Disneyland - the North American Soccer League (NASL).

In desperation, owners of NASL clubs turned back to the English connexion. Eddie Firmani, the former Charlton Athletic manager, was reappointed to New York Cosmos in November (having been sacked by the club in 1979). And that flamboyant maverick of English football, Rodney Marsh, has taken charge of Tampa Bay Rowdies after the resignation of Al Miller, an American coach who had been installed with disastrous results in place of the former Queen's Park Rangers manager, Gordon Jago.

There are now seven graduates of the Football League at the nine NASL clubs - evidence perhaps that the old accusations of an English mafia were exaggerated. Certainly managers like Ron Newman, of the San Diego Sockers, and Bob Houghton, at Toronto Bizzard, have proved to be models of consistency and loyalty. They are where they are on merit. Of those who lost their jobs under this year's great "Americanization" programme, not all have resurfaced as managers. Alan Hinton is now a successful players' agent showing little sign of missing his \$100,000-a-year job with Seattle Sounders. His former club, however, missed him. They are now bankrupt. "I feel very comfortable now," Hinton says. "I miss the competition and the players, but I don't miss the finger-pointing, the back-stabbing and the attitude of survival at all costs. I've got my four-bedroom house, my Audi and my daughter's horse. To me, this is still the land of opportunity."

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RACING: CHAMPION TRAINER FANCIED TO TAKE TODAY'S TWO MAIN RACES

The Mighty Mac can stay ahead

With Bregand and Backsworth Boy both falling and Ashley House running indifferently this did not go according to plan for Michael Dickinson...

half miles so early in his slicechasing career. Recently, Captain Dynamo finished second to Linawa at Cheltenham. Today he will be meeting the same horse on worse terms...

Three winners for Francom John Francom completing his half century of winners for the season with a treble on Venderay, End Era and Star of Ireland at Fakenham yesterday.

On that occasion Permabos and Mayotte were breathing down the necks of Dawn Run and Amarrach at the end. With only 10st 5lb to carry now Permabos will never have a better chance of beating the likes of Roblo Wonder, Sula Bula, Very Promising and Admirals Cup because the conditions of today's race really are tailor made to suit him.

There is plenty more to excite at Ascot besides the big race, beginning with the Killiney Novices Steeplechase. David Nicholson is running Captain Dynamo in this race instead of Gambir because the does not suit the conditions of the race.

Earlier in the season Lettich and Forgive 'N' Forget treated everyone at Stratford to a spectacle when they fought out a marvellous finish. Now, in light of Lettich's subsequent achievement it will be disappointing if Forgive 'N' Forget cannot repeat the feat.

Great Britain hoping to throw Australians off stride again

From Sydney Friskin, Hongkong operation, and will probably think twice before picking him.

The last victory by a Great Britain team over Australia was achieved at Surbiton in 1967, when the score was 3-0. But the present British team are composed mainly of players from England, who have not given the Australians an easy time in recent years.

Who among patrons of the hockey arts would not want to be here for the earlier semi-final between Pakistan, the world champions, and India, the Olympic champions? Pakistan, whose fortunes have dwindled since they retained the World Cup at Bombay in January, 1982, have settled down to smooth running, although there are still some weaknesses.

Kenyon and Miss Opie win back titles

By Rex Bellamy The finals of the British National Championships, sponsored by Just Juice, produced thrilling and highly skilled squash at Abbotsdale Park, Sheffield.

retrieving was an important factor in frustrating Miss L. Moignan in her attempt to take charge. When Miss Opie entered an obscurely without precedent, an unprovoked referee observed: 'Yes, but she said it so nicely.' Mr. Peate acceptably amusing was a comment by a lady in the gallery when Gwyneth Brnars had trouble getting his breath back after a long and arduous match.

Ascot

Going good to firm. Tote Double: 1.20, 2.30. Treble: 1.55, 3.0 (Television (BBC): 12.50, 1.20, 1.55 and 2.30 races)

12.15 KILLINEY CHASE (novices: 25.55; 2m 4f) (7 runners) 101 21-112 CAPTAIN DYNAMO (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 102 21-112 ASHLEY HOUSE (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 103 21-112 BREGAND (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 104 21-112 BACKSWORTH BOY (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 105 21-112 ACHILLES (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 106 21-112 ACHILLES (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 107 21-112 ACHILLES (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 108 21-112 ACHILLES (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 109 21-112 ACHILLES (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 110 21-112 ACHILLES (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 111 21-112 ACHILLES (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 112 21-112 ACHILLES (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore

Doncaster

Going good to firm. Tote: Double 1.20, 2.30. Treble 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 (Television (ITV): 1.30, 2.0 and 2.30 races)

12.30 GLASGOW PADDOCKS HURDLE (selling: £1,600; 2m 150yds) (23 runners) 1 001 21-112 CAPTAIN DYNAMO (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 1 002 21-112 ASHLEY HOUSE (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 1 003 21-112 BREGAND (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 1 004 21-112 BACKSWORTH BOY (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 1 005 21-112 ACHILLES (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 1 006 21-112 ACHILLES (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 1 007 21-112 ACHILLES (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 1 008 21-112 ACHILLES (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 1 009 21-112 ACHILLES (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 1 010 21-112 ACHILLES (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 1 011 21-112 ACHILLES (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 1 012 21-112 ACHILLES (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore

Towcester

Going good to firm. 12.15 MISTLETOE CHASE (Div I: novices: £1,238; 2m 5f 110yds) (11 runners) 1 25-11 BREGAND (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 1 25-2 BREGAND (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 1 25-3 BREGAND (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 1 25-4 BREGAND (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 1 25-5 BREGAND (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 1 25-6 BREGAND (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 1 25-7 BREGAND (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 1 25-8 BREGAND (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 1 25-9 BREGAND (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 1 25-10 BREGAND (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 1 25-11 BREGAND (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 1 25-12 BREGAND (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore

Ascot Selections

By Michael Phillips 12.15 Linawa. 1.20 The Mighty Mac. 1.55 Mayotte. 2.30 Fakenham. 3.0 Rufus T. Firefly.

Doncaster selections

By Michael Phillips 12.30 Majoram. 1.0 Kilroe's Callin. 1.30 Noddy's Ryde. 2.0 Fearless Imp. 2.30 Forgive 'N' Forget. 3.0 Lannswold Miss.

Towcester selections

By Michael Phillips 12.15 Big. 1.20 Light Chisel. 1.15 Mott. 1.45 Hard Bargain. 2.15 Tarzan. 2.45 Young Ducky. 3.15 Clutterbuck.

Doncaster results

12.30 LOTTERY CHASE (selling: handicap: £1,250; 2m 150yds) 101 21-112 CAPTAIN DYNAMO (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 102 21-112 ASHLEY HOUSE (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 103 21-112 BREGAND (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 104 21-112 BACKSWORTH BOY (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 105 21-112 ACHILLES (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 106 21-112 ACHILLES (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 107 21-112 ACHILLES (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 108 21-112 ACHILLES (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 109 21-112 ACHILLES (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 110 21-112 ACHILLES (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 111 21-112 ACHILLES (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore 112 21-112 ACHILLES (D) (P) (Horse of the Year) 11-11-8 S. Scudamore

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Advertisement for Selecto solution Central, featuring a large image of a person and text describing the product's benefits for various ailments.

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Legality test for EEC budget

From Ian Murray Brussels

The 1984 EEC budget, which was passed by the European Parliament on Thursday, is to be studied by the Community foreign ministers here on Monday. They will be considering whether or not it is legal.

The budget was given its second reading by Parliament in the face of total opposition by British MEPs, who were furious because agreed rebates worth £457m to Britain were put into a special frozen category and can only be released by a further vote of Parliament.

But the Council of Ministers is not looking at the budget at Britain's behest. It has noted at least four legal points, which it believes could be challenged before the European Court, and there is a growing mood in member countries that Parliament must be made to keep to the rules.

One point does involve the British cash. Parliament has reclassified this from being compulsory spending - as laid down by the Council - to non-compulsory spending, which alone can be controlled by the Parliament. Making this change made it possible for the money to be frozen.

But senior EEC diplomats, who met late in Brussels after Parliament's vote, were worried about other points, notably the way in which Parliament had arbitrarily increased the amount of revenue for the budget beyond the limits which the Council believed are legally permissible.

If the Council wants to challenge what Parliament has done it will have to act quickly on Monday because the following day Mr Piet Dankert, the president of the Parliament, intends to adopt it. Once that formalities is completed the Commission can then begin to implement the budget whatever the Council may say.

EEC power struggle, page 6



Lights out: A hat-trick of Santas lining up to greet non-smokers on the steam journey. [Photograph: Herbie Knott].

Steaming to Santa

The six-mile Watercross Line steam railway, which runs between Arleford and Four Marks in Hampshire, is running a service of Santa Specials this weekend.

The £2.25 fare on the Santa steam-hauled specials includes sherry for adults and presents for children when they reach Santa's Grotto at Four Marks station.

Judge orders Whitehall 'mole' unmasked

Continued from page 1 sources and has been blown utterly apart.

"Anyone who knows Whitehall knows that documents stamped secret extend even to the office loo paper, and it now seems that if a document is Crown property, which applies to 60 or 70 per cent of leaks, then you are automatically bound to return it."

He said that the newspaper had not destroyed the document or defaced it in order to remove identifying marks be-

cause to have done so once the "legal juggernaut" had started could have led to criminal charges.

Mr Preston said that he had no means of knowing if the identification marks on the secret document would help reveal the "mole."

"That has been one of the nightmare-factors of this case. The leaker took extreme precautions to make sure we had no idea who he or she was. He or she had every opportunity in handing us the document to

make certain it would be of no relevance if handed back. But we did not know that for certain."

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Leading article, page 9 Law report, page 28

Letter from New York

Down and out in the soup-kitchen queue

Mr Edwin Meese, one of President Reagan's senior aides, said this week that some customers at the soup kitchens in American cities were not poor but were there "because the food is free and that's easier than paying for it." Trevor Fitzlock joined the queues to find out for himself.

Outside the soup kitchen on West 28th Street, men, women and children wait silently in a long line and sniff the smell of stew. Jimmy, the doorman, has control and as one person emerges from the 58-seat canteen another is allowed in. In the three-hour lunch period this place serves more than 400 meals.

No one is asked if he has any money, who he is or what he does. Those who run the Holy Apostles Church soup kitchen keep an open door. They say that the sort of people who come here have had enough of being humiliated. The guests, as they are called, get a free meal, a smile and no questions.

Most of them look in need of a square meal and some human warmth. All that is asked is that they eat up and make room for another hungry person. They attend to their trays and eat modestly in a monastic silence.

Rosie, who is middle-aged and a regular here, has a meal of minced meat, beans, bread, salad and fruit. "It's my only meal of the day. I depend on it."

Abigail, a country-and-western singer whose luck ran out and who now lives in a hostel for the homeless sits with her five children, aged two to nine. "We need to come here. There are no cooking facilities at the hostel and we couldn't afford to eat out."

A young man says: "I don't have a job or a home, I have to eat."

Many of the people who come here live and sleep rough, in stations and up against the walls. Some spend hours in the tube trains for warmth. Others live in depressing, run-down hotels used by the city council for homeless families. There are more than 35,000 homeless people in this city, two million homeless across the country: the broken Americans.

Some of those in the canteen and in the queue outside, who drifters and alcoholics, beg and grey-faced.

"But they are not all the traditional Bowery bums," says the Rev William Greenleaf, who runs the kitchen. "A surprisingly high number are in their twenties and thirties, white as well as black, who have just drifted out of the economic mainstream."

New York has 800 soup kitchens, run by churches and volunteers, twice as many as there were a year ago. There are similar canteens throughout the US.

Poverty and spectacle of hungry Americans constitutes a sensitive political issue which haunts President Reagan. There are more than 34 million people, 15 per cent of the population, below the poverty line. A family of four is officially poor if it gets under \$9,862 (£6,800) a year.

President Reagan is widely viewed as being unsympathetic towards the poor and hungry. Mr Meese's remarks about the people who go to soup kitchens are a notorious remark of Mr Reagan's, that food stamp recipients bought vodka with their spare money.

The Administration is trying to repair the damage. Its record on welfare is not good. The Administration has cut billions of dollars from food programmes, removed hundreds of thousands of people from the food stamp scheme and forced hundreds of schools to stop providing lunch. The soup kitchens have spread as the crisis has hit.

This week it was reported that the Administration had delayed funding for a scheme to distribute surplus food to the poor.

Those helping to feed this very poor complain bitterly about the red tape that makes it difficult for them to obtain surplus food from the Government. Mr Greenleaf said: "There is now an adversarial relationship between government welfare people and those they are meant to serve... the welfare system is a maze, immoral, horrible and shameful for all Americans."

Steaming to Santa

The six-mile Watercross Line steam railway, which runs between Arleford and Four Marks in Hampshire, is running a service of Santa Specials this weekend.

The £2.25 fare on the Santa steam-hauled specials includes sherry for adults and presents for children when they reach Santa's Grotto at Four Marks station.

Judge orders Whitehall 'mole' unmasked

Continued from page 1 sources and has been blown utterly apart.

"Anyone who knows Whitehall knows that documents stamped secret extend even to the office loo paper, and it now seems that if a document is Crown property, which applies to 60 or 70 per cent of leaks, then you are automatically bound to return it."

He said that the newspaper had not destroyed the document or defaced it in order to remove identifying marks be-

cause to have done so once the "legal juggernaut" had started could have led to criminal charges.

Mr Preston said that he had no means of knowing if the identification marks on the secret document would help reveal the "mole."

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THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New exhibitions Textile Designs and Drawings by Janet Hunter, Atkinson Gallery, Lord Street, Southport; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Thurs and Sat 10 to 1, closed Sun (ends Jan 14).

The Print Collection, showing the creative use of different printing processes by 20th Century artists; Wallace Museum and Art Gallery, Lichfield Street, Walsall; Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 4.45, closed Sun (ends Jan 7).

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16312 Fibre art by a collection of artists, and felt hangings by Freda Walker, Abbot Hall, Kendal, Cumbria; Sun 2 to 5 (ends today).

Antique collectors fair, Newton Memorial Hall, Cheltenham, Shropshire; Sun 10 to 12.30 and 1.30 to 5 (ends today).

Antiques and flea market, Top Rank Suite, Arundel Gate, Sheffield; Sun 9 to 5.

Concert by BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra, St David's Hall, Cardiff; Sun 7.30.

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Lichfield Street, Walsall; Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 4.45, closed Sun (ends Jan 7).

Genman Glass Today - the only North west showing of this major exhibition of contemporary German glass-making, recent work by Oger, Liddell and Keith Gordon, two young artists from the North west, both exhibitions at the Museum and Art Gallery, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 5, closed Wed and Sun (both end Jan 21).

Show business, the Theatre Museum's look at the live performing arts, a touring exhibition from the Victoria and Albert Museum, at the Chapter Arts Centre, Market Road, Canton, Cardiff; Mon to Fri 12 to 10, Sat 12 to 4, and 6 to 9, closed Sun (ends Jan 23).

Last chance to see Curtains! - A new life for old theatres - Elizabethan Exhibition Gallery, Brook Street, Walford; Mon to Sat 10.30 to 12.30 and 1.30 to 5 (ends today).

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David Danaldson retrospective, City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (ends Jan 28).

New Additions to the Priot Loan Scheme, and work by Simon Bull, Wakefield Art Gallery, Wentworth Terrace, Wakefield; Mon to Sat 10.30 to 12.30 and 1 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5 (ends Jan 13).

The Scottish Crafts Collection, a touring exhibition from the Scottish Development Agency, Macaulay Art Gallery, Roxie Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 5, closed Sun (ends Jan 14).

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In the garden

Leaves of many plants such as Primula demissa and other species, also hellebores (Christmas and Lenten roses) all die down and tend to become a soggy mess. They should be removed not only to the interests of tidiness but also to remove shelter for pests and any danger the rotting material might be to grow buds just below the surface.

Protect the more tender plants such as clematis, clematis, anemones and schizanthus against frost with a 6in layer of straw, peat, or leaves over and around them. The leaves of red hot poker together wigwag fashion.

Draw soil up to the base of the taller brassicas - kales, Brussels sprouts, sprouting broccoli or even stake the very tall plants. Remove dead and yellowing leaves. RH

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Roads

Wales and West: A35: Single-lane traffic on temporary traffic signals on Axminster - Honiton road between Kilmington - Loughwood, Devon. A483: Temporary traffic lights, long delays in Wind Street, Axminster. A55: Temporary roundabout at Colwyn Bay, junction with A546.

Middlesex: Centralflow on A34: Stone - Newcastle road at Stogford, Staffordshire. M5: Today only: Etoxford between junction 9 (Tewkesbury) single lane traffic will operate on both north and southbound carriageways for part of day, both carriageways should be clear by mid-afternoon. A1: Lane closures at